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iPad vs MacBook

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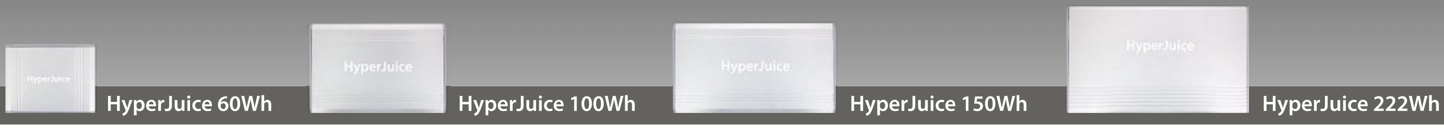

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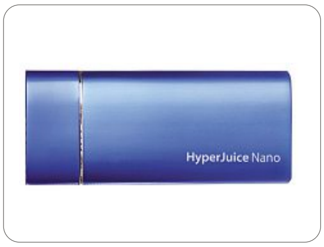

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Subscribe to *MacFormat* to **save 35%** on the newsstand price, and get a Powermonkey portable charger. **Turn to page 30 to sign up!**

Wouldn't you know it. Just as this issue of *MacFormat* was heading towards the printers, Apple brought out a brand new iMac featuring Sandy Bridge processors, a Thunderbolt port and vastly improved graphics chips. Undaunted by the approaching deadline, we pulled out all the stops and managed to get our review done in time – see page 86 for our official verdict.

Another change this month has been the appointment of our new Deputy Editor, Rob Mead-Green: he's an experienced journalist and long-time Apple fan who has worked on many of Future Publishing's best technology magazines, so we're lucky to have him on the team! Why not drop Rob an email to make him feel welcome (**rob.mead-green@futurenet.com**).

Of course, that means Rob takes over from my good friend Christopher Phin, who is now relinquishing his *MacFormat* duties to become the full-time Editor of our sister title *Tap! The iPhone and iPad magazine*. I'd just like to take a moment to say thanks to Chris for being such a great Dep Ed and wish him good luck in his new job. Don't worry, I'm sure you'll still find his writing in many more future issues of *MacFormat!*

Enjoy this issue and we'll see you next month for more!

Graham Barlow, Editor-in-Chief
graham.barlow@futurenet.com
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Deputy Editor

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Reviews Editor

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Get a spotless desktop in one click!

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tricks & tips for iPad 2
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Start up

Super speedy iMacs will be ready to tame the Lion later in the year.

Fastest ever iMacs!

As the speedy new iMacs ship, Apple heads up to the clouds and beyond…

Apple has introduced its new iMac range, with new quad-core models up to 70% faster than before, with graphics processing power up to three times over the previous generation.

Obviously designed to get the best out of OS X Lion when it ships in summer, the new Macs use Intel's Sandy Bridge processors and prices start at £1,000.

The latest generation Intel Core i5 processors ship as standard across the range, with the option to choose Core i7 processors running at up to 3.4GHz. The new processors are more power efficient and much faster performing than the previous generation. They have an integrated memory controller, a new media engine for high-performance video tasks and new AMD Radeon HD graphics processors. "The new iMac has the most powerful graphics ever in an all-in-one desktop," Apple claims.

These models incorporate the new FaceTime HD camera, introduced in the MacBook Pro. The Intel/Apple-developed Thunderbolt I/O standard also appears. On one cable this is able to simultaneously support both data and video throughput. Featuring two bi-directional channels with transfer speeds up to 10Gbps each, Thunderbolt delivers PCI Express directly to high-performance peripherals, such as RAID arrays, and can support FireWire and USB consumer devices, and Gigabit Ethernet networks via adapters. The 27-inch iMac comes with two Thunderbolt ports whereas the 21-inch model has just one.

"Our customers love the iMac's aluminium enclosure, gorgeous display and all-in-one design," said Phil Schiller, Apple's senior vice president of Worldwide Product Marketing. "With next generation quad-core processors, powerful new graphics, Thunderbolt technology and

>> MORE NEWS
For even more on the Mac, iPod and iPhone, visit
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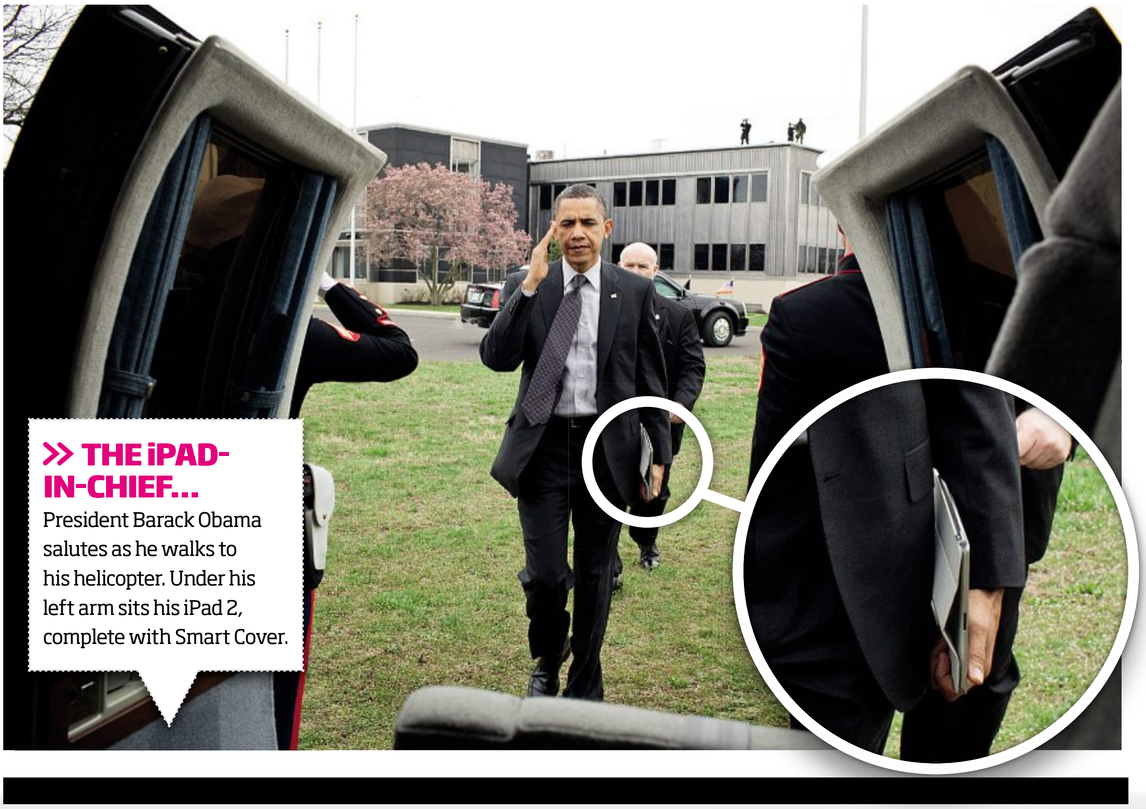
APPLE IN PICTURES / The USA's secret weapon



THE iPAD-IN-CHIEF...
President Barack Obama salutes as he walks to his helicopter. Under his left arm sits his iPad 2, complete with Smart Cover.

a FaceTime HD camera, we've made the world's best desktop even better."

With an eye on the multi-touch elements we can look forward to in Lion, the iMac range ships with a wireless Magic Mouse, though you can choose to take a Magic Trackpad instead, at no extra cost.

iMac buyers can upgrade the hard drive to a much faster SSD drive, but this costs an extra £400, or £480 for a model equipped with both an SSD and a 1TB hard drive.

Additional features of the new iMacs include: Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 4GB memory, 7,200rpm drives, built-in stereo speakers, two internal 17-watt high-efficiency amplifiers, audio in/out, built in microphone, support for an iPhone headset with mic, Gigabit Ethernet, four USB 2.0 ports, IR Receiver and a slot-loading 8x SuperDrive with 4x double-layer burning.

The 21.5-inch iMac is available in two configurations: one with a 2.5GHz quad-core Intel Core i5, AMD Radeon HD 6750M and 500GB hard drive for £999; and one with a 2.7GHz quad-core Intel Core i5, AMD Radeon HD 6770M and 1TB hard drive for £1,249. The new 27-inch iMac comes in two models: one with a 2.7GHz quad-core Intel Core i5, AMD Radeon HD 6770M and 1TB hard drive for £1,399; and one with a 3.1GHz quad-core Intel Core i5, AMD Radeon HD 6970M and 1TB hard drive for £1,649.

Announcing the new Macs, Apple was noted to change its closing PR statement, which now says it "recently introduced iPad 2 which is defining the future of mobile media and computing devices." This underlines Apple's aim to deliver iPad-like elements in Lion. One feature should be a 'Find My Mac' tool, with a Remote Wipe facility.

A move to the cloud is considered part of the plan. Apple has acquired 'iCloud.com' as a domain name, reinforcing expectation the firm intends to introduce cloud-based services, presumably developed with Lion OS in mind. These services may include *iTunes* and MobileMe enhancements, and video-focused streaming services.

Apple's US data centre is just the start. Microsoft's Manager of Data Centre Operations, Kevin Timmons, recently quit Redmond to set up data centres for Apple. ●

APPLE IN NUMBERS

2.2 million

Verizon CDMA iPhones activated in seven weeks

"Have you heard the joke about the BlackBerry PlayBook?"

RIM provides Chris Phin with plenty of material for his burgeoning stand-up career.

Apple talk

Who's saying what?

Steve Jobs
www.apple.com
"When people accuse us of things, we want to find out the truth. That takes time..."
Jobs explains delayed Apple statement on 'Location-gate'

Peter Vesterbacka
www.rovio.com
"Apple brought out the iPhone and all of a sudden, great games mattered."
Angry Birds chief says Apple changed his world

Mark Natkin
www.marbridgeconsulting.com
"If you look at the Apple experience store in Beijing, it's packed every day."
Analyst notes Apple is big business in China

Mike Matas
www.pushpoppress.com
"The app is the richest form of storytelling. It opens doors to telling a story with more interaction."
Al Gore-backed developer talks publishing

Greenpeace
www.greenpeace.org
"Apple's decision to locate its iDataCenter in North Carolina, which has an electrical grid of 61% coal, 31% nuclear, indicates a lack of commitment to clean energy supply."
Greenpeace on Apple's environmental record

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Up the competition

Christopher Phin

Have you heard the joke about the BlackBerry PlayBook? It doesn't come with an email client.

Ah, I ought to have said: it's not a joke in the sense of being funny. It's a joke in the sense of "Hah, yeah, imagine if that was true! Wait, what? It actually is? Really?"

Think about it: RIM, the company that created a mobile email platform so focused, so compelling, so loved that its flagship brand earned the nickname CrackBerry, has shipped a tablet without an email client. The tablet that carries the BlackBerry brand, essentially synonymous with email, doesn't have an email client.

Well, it does if you pair it with a BlackBerry handset. Or if you wait for a software update that brings email – oh, and contacts and calendars too, which are also missing. Or use webmail.

These kludgy fudges are more than just a PR embarrassment for RIM; they're surely evidence that the PlayBook was rushed to market.

With a building wave of tablets using Google's new Android OS codenamed Gingerbread, and Apple even managing to launch the second version of its market-defining iPad before RIM shipped anything, it's clear that the BlackBerry brand was under pressure to launch something quickly for its slice of the tablet market. The lack of a native email client at launch, however, must be the clearest evidence yet that in the rush to ship, corners have been cut. It's just ironic that one of the most obvious corners cut by RIM was an app for doing that thing it is most famous for.

> *"The tablet that carries the BlackBerry brand, essentially synonymous with email, doesn't have an email client…"*

Ah yes, apps. With apps now being so crucial to a platform's success, how will RIM ensure there are enough apps available for those who bought the PlayBook at launch? I'm told the experience is better than cynics would expect, but it still just sounds like a Heath Robinson-style lash-up of gargantuan proportions – and just as stable.

I want the iPad to have compelling competitors; to make everyone work harder. And at the moment, RIM isn't providing it.

Christopher Phin has divided the nation (well, the office) with his pimp-my-iPhone mod. See it here: twitpic.com/4tnrg8.

The first iPad 2 buyer at Apple's Regent Street Store celebrates.

©Getty Images

FINANCIAL GAIN

The year of Apple success

Mobile products drive the company's growth

Apple's queue creation techniques lead the industry: iPad-hungry groups wait outside stores worldwide, even weeks since the product's release. This underlines Apple's success at this time, with the company's most recent financial results delivering yet another record quarter. Revenue hit $24.67 billion for an impressive $5.99 billion net quarterly profit.

"With quarterly revenue growth of 83% and profit growth of 95%, we're firing on all cylinders," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO. "We will continue to innovate on all fronts throughout the remainder of the year."

Mac sales climbed 28%, and Apple sold 3.76 million Macs during the quarter. Apple sold 18.65 million iPhones (up 113%) and 4.69 iPads in the period. IDC estimates claim Apple to be the fourth biggest mobile phone maker, with 5% of the market.

Apple's new mobile products are driving company growth. So too is its focus on emerging markets, particularly China, which is Apple's fastest-growing iPhone market. Sales in the region climbed 250% year-on-year, while Apple's $5 billion in China region revenues were four times those of 2010. China now accounts for 10% of Apple revenues. "We're extremely happy with how we're doing in China," said Apple COO, Tim Cook. Analysys expects smartphone sales to reach 95 million this year.

iPod sales shrank significantly. Interestingly, it wasn't competition that took the iPod market – instead the market changed to favour the iPhone and iPad range. Reflecting this, Apple sold 9.02 million iPods in the quarter, down 17%. Apple is expecting revenue of $23 billion in the current quarter.

Japan's dreadful earthquake disaster has affected tech supply chains, and while Apple has taken shrewd steps to protect itself from the impact of these, Cook confirmed the company remains unable to manufacture enough iPads to meet demand. "Demand has been staggering and I'm not going to predict when supply and demand will come into balance," Cook said. ●

APPLE IN NUMBERS

10%

China now accounts for "about 10%" of Apple's sales

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>> ACROSS THE POND

Mac games goodness

Susie Ochs

Originally, I worked on magazines dedicated to PC and console gaming. I started covering Macs in 2006. But I remember all too well the attitude those PC editors had about gaming on the Mac: it was a waste of time, total kids' stuff, primo games weren't available, the hardware couldn't handle them. What a difference five years makes.

It's not even that Macs have caught up to PCs, (at least not all the way). The typical PC tower is still more upgradeable, especially its graphics card, usually the most important component for playing marquee games. But as the Mac has become more powerful, thanks to top-of-the-line Intel chips and beefy graphical chops, gaming has evolved too, and so they're meeting in the middle.

For starters, casual and indie games are bigger than ever. With inventive titles (such as *Braid*, *VVVVVV*, *Minecraft*, *Sleep Is Death*, and *Galcon Fusion*), often come lighter system requirements, since they want to reach the biggest number of players possible. And with the launch of Valve's Steam storefront on the Mac, we're starting to see more A-list games too, with the delay between PC and Mac releases shrinking ever faster. *Portal 2*, this year's hottest title so far, was on Mac from day one. Browser-based games such as *Battlestar Galactica Online*, *World Golf Tour*, and *Clone Wars Adventures* further bridge the gap between Mac and PC users, since all you need is a web browser. Here in the States, we have OnLive, a cloud gaming service. And I hope you guys get it soon, because it takes hardware out of the picture completely. The games run on OnLive's servers, and stream to you with low-latency, high-definition video. As long as your broadband passes muster, you can play on almost any Mac, even a MacBook Air, and they even have a 'MicroConsole' that lets you play on your HDTV. It sounds like magic, and guess what? It works like magic too. Mac gaming is here to stay, and I couldn't be happier. Well, unless I magically got better at *Portal 2*. ●

> *"PCs are more upgradeable, especially graphics cards usually the most important thing for playing games"*

Susie Ochs, Senior Editor of *Mac|Life*, is currently letting her iPhone take her to the movies for free thanks to the Crackle app.

>> iPHONE'S ALL WHITE

White iPhone ships at last!

The brighter than bright gadget arrives

Apple has at last made the white iPhone 4 available after 10 months of delay. The new configuration is available to purchase from Apple's online store, at Apple's retail stores and select Apple Authorised Resellers. "The white iPhone 4 has arrived and it's beautiful," said Phil Schiller, Apple's Senior Vice President of Worldwide Product Marketing.

Apple had intended selling both iPhone versions in June 2010. "White models of Apple's new iPhone 4 have proven more challenging to manufacture than expected," the company said in a statement at that time.

It has been alleged that part of the reason for the delay lay in unexpected difficulties manufacturing the white case; in addition, it is thought that light leaked into the camera lens, ruining image capture.

Schiller agreed that building the white device had been "challenging" with regard to the "material science of it – how it holds up over time … but also in how it all works with the sensors."

Despite the long wait, introduction of the white model found sufficient pent-up demand to see it jump into the top slot to lead both the US and UK online Apple store sales charts.

Ticonderoga Securities analyst, Brian White, estimates introduction of the new model phone could boost Apple's iPhone sales by up to 1.5 million per quarter, helping fill the gap before iPhone 5. ●

Stockwatch

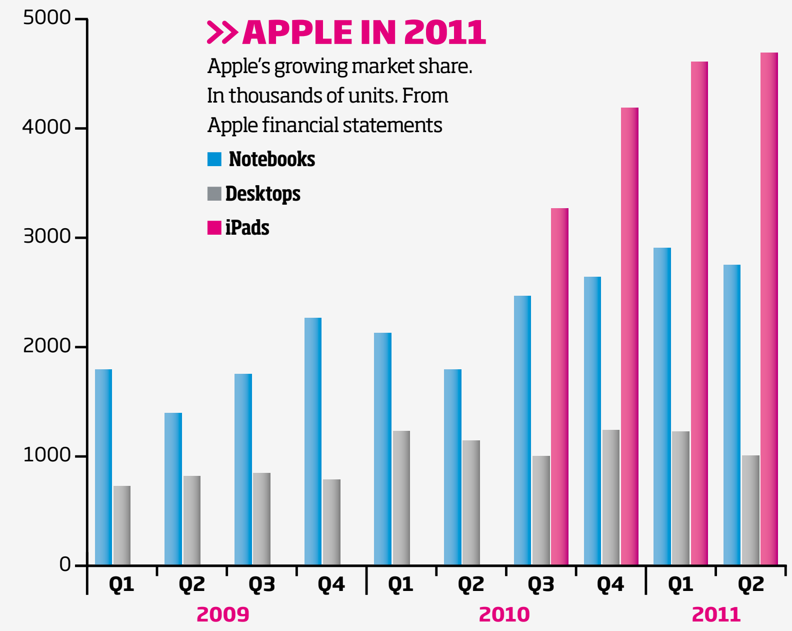
A look at the world of Apple business with Clem Chambers

Apple's stock price has been falling from all-time highs in a nasty pattern, suggesting the market is nervous at the current $300-350 levels. However, these results shot Apple's price back to the top of the recent share price channel. $300,000,000,000 (Apple's valuation) is a lot of money. The stock market also looks to the future to gauge the possibility of trouble. Steve Jobs' health, post-earthquake supply problems and competition from all the planet's consumer electronics brands are the worrying clouds in Apple's blue sky.

To make the US's second largest stock go up even 50% takes a new piece of good news. Nasdaq's move to dilute Apple's significance in the index is akin to an investor selling a chunk of their Apple holding in an attempt to protect their portfolio if Apple takes a dive. It's not meant to be advice but it tells you what the actuaries at the Nasdaq index think of the downside risk.

Clem Chambers is CEO of ADVFN, Europe's leading stocks and shares website.

APPLE IN NUMBERS / The bigger Apple



This is the year of the Mac (and iPad, too), as the company continues months of above-average growth and moves to create an end-to-end platform from the desktop to notebook, to mobile (iOS) handhelds.

FINAL CUT FINESSE

Final Cut Pro X

A peek at the forthcoming video-editing app

Apple stole the show at NAB this year when it offered 1,700 video professionals a sneak glance at some of the features of its non-linear video editing application, *Final Cut Pro X*.

This upgrade to the company's popular offering for professional users in the film and broadcast industry is cheaper, faster and equipped with more powerful features than ever before.

The redesigned interface borrows some of its control elements from *iMovie*, and as expected, introduces more support for multi-touch (with a compatible controller). The 64-bit software boasts multi-processor support and much better memory management, making it the fastest version of the software yet.

Final Cut users can look forward to much better integration of metadata in the project file metadata stored in the clip, not just in the project. There's strong support for automation to simplify some tasks. The software's audio features include some borrowed from *Soundtrack Pro*, while primary and secondary colour correction tools are taken from *Color*. There's even features borrowed from *Motion* within this release.

Speaking to Larry Jordan, Phil Schiller, Apple's Senior Vice President for Worldwide Marketing, said: "This is a total rethinking of how we tell stories visually."

Apple hasn't yet officially introduced the new software, but it has announced the price – it will cost $299 when it launches in June. ●

APPLE IN NUMBERS

19.48 million

iPads shipped since the launch in April 2010

HOT OR NOT?

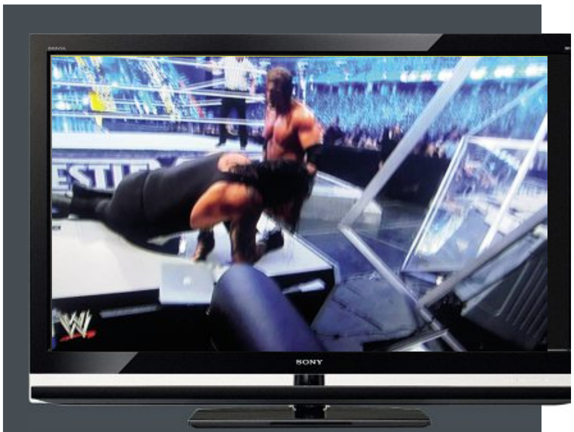
The latest word from the Apple rumour mill

HOT: Find My Mac for Lion
Find My iPhone lets you find your phone if it's lost or stolen. We hear Macs gain this feature in Lion, so you'll never lose your Mac again.

HOT: Reading list for Safari
Apple is developing *InstaPaper*-like features for *Safari* in Lion. *Reading List* will let you save pages for reading later. We're hoping it syncs between devices.

NOT: Sharp screens for iPhone 6
We don't believe reports claiming Sharp to be developing a new polysilicon display technology for future iPhones; we can't imagine why this would leak.

NOT: Apple leaving pro markets
Apple is spending less on professional product R&D in comparison to what it does elsewhere, but this reflects its diversifying range. Apple remains pro-Pro.



Apple on TV

The Mac is ready for its close-up

Apple's MacBook Pro is tough, but not tough enough for WWE wrestling superstar *The Undertaker*, who eagle-eyed reader Ricky Sickelmore saw throwing his Mac during a recent Wrestlemania event.

If you've spotted a Mac on television, then email macformat@futurenet.com and tell us all about it!

Win! a Lexmark Genesis S815 with Flash Scan

This stylish and innovative multifunction inkjet printer could be yours!

Lexmark's exciting new Genesis S815 takes another look at the multifunction printer. The machine features Lexmark's latest Flash Scan technology – instead of a traditional flatbed scanner, it uses a 10MP camera that captures an A4 image in just three seconds.

The Genesis can also run mini-apps on its 4.3-inch capacitive touchscreen. After connecting the printer to your network through Wi-Fi 'n', you can download applications such as a calculator, clock display, Sudoku puzzles and a weather forecast from AccuWeather. There's apps for Facebook and Twitter integration, news and sports feeds from Apple, ESPN and the BBC, and the facility to view, scan to and print from MobileMe, Flickr and Picasa. There are even applications for printing graph or music paper. Print quality is very good too, with crisp, clear text and vibrant photo images. And its small footprint means it doesn't take up much room on your desk.

Thanks to Lexmark, we're giving away a Genesis S815 and spare inks, for a total prize value of £500.

The question

To stand a chance of winning one of these superb prizes, just answer this question:

Which of these is NOT a feature offered by the Lexmark Genesis S518?

A) Downloadable mini-applications
B) Image capture using a digital camera
C) An integrated umbrella stand

For more information on the Genesis S518, and other great Lexmark printers, go to www.lexmark.co.uk.

PRIZES WORTH £500!

HOW TO ENTER

- To enter, text LEXMARK, followed by a space then your answer (A, B or C), space, then your name and address to 87474; or enter via **www.macformat.co.uk** and click on the **Competition** link.
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- Competition closes on 16th June 2011.

>>DESIGN DUPLICITY

Apple vs Samsung

Apple take on Samsung for patently copying…

Apple has begun legal action against Samsung, alleging multiple instances of patent infringement within the latter company's Galaxy range of Android-based smartphones and tablets.

The iPad-maker is furious because it claims Samsung copied some of the external design features of the iPad, iPhone and iPod touch within its Galaxy products. The company also claims Samsung's App icons are similar to Apple's.

Responding, Samsung began a legal counterattack, launching litigation against Apple in South Korea, Japan and Germany. "Samsung is responding to the legal action in order to protect our intellectual property and to ensure our continued innovation and growth in the mobile communications business," the company said.

Apple and Samsung have a close business relationship. Apple purchased services and components worth $5.7 billion from Samsung last year. The Korean firm also makes Apple-designed ARM-based A5 processors used in iOS devices.

The Galaxy and iPad - separated at birth? Apple think so...

Speaking on the case, Apple's chief operating officer, Tim Cook, said, "We are Samsung's largest customer. And Samsung is a valued component supplier to us, and I expect that relationship will continue. Separately from this, we felt the mobile communication division of Samsung had crossed the line, and after trying for some time to work the issue, we decided we needed to rely on the courts." ●

>>CASH WARS

iPad kills Microsoft

Apple beats the PC giant to the top of the money tree

Apple's historical resurgence appears complete – it's now more profitable than Microsoft. The company beat Microsoft in first-quarter profit last month, making the company more profitable and with higher revenue than its oldest foe. Apple beat Microsoft in quarterly revenue for the first time in 15 years in October 2010. Microsoft announced net profit of $5.23 billion for the first calendar quarter (third fiscal quarter) of 2011; that's in contrast to Apple's $5.99 billion profit in the same quarter. Apple isn't just more profitable than Microsoft, it's also more valuable with a market capitalisation value that's $100 billion higher than the competing firm.

Gartner recently lowered its PC sales forecasts for 2011 and 2012, warning that consumers are preferring tablets – principally the iPad – to conventional computers. Gartner research director, George Shiffler, said, "We expect growing consumer enthusiasm for mobile-PC alternatives, such as the iPad and other media tablets, to dramatically slow home mobile-PC sales, especially in mature markets." Microsoft CFO Peter Klein admitted consumer PC shipments dropped 8% in the quarter while netbook sales fell 40%, with consumers choosing iPads. Canalys says Apple's the fourth-largest PC maker, if you count tablets as PCs. ●

Microsoft slumps while Apple whip ahead of the race.

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Me&MyMac

MacFormat readers share their beloved Mac setups

>>CONTACT US

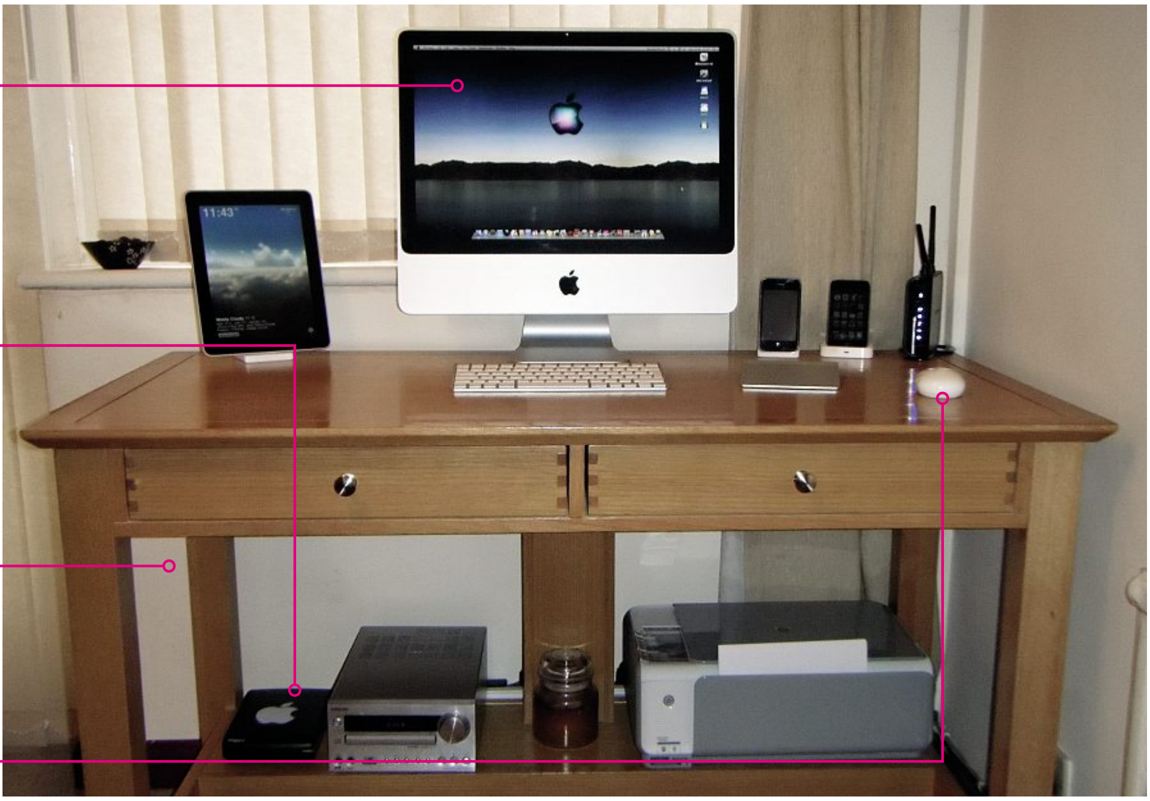
Want to share your Mac setup with us? Send a photo of your kit to **rob.mead-green@futurenet.com**.

20-inch iMac Intel Core 2 Duo
Paul's upgraded the RAM and likes to keep Mac OS X bang up-to-date.

500GB hard drive
That Apple sticker on Paul's backup drive isn't fooling us! A tad cheaper than a Time Capsule, though…

Hidden wiring
A lot of time and effort has gone into hiding away the cables to create a clutter-free work area.

Magic Mouse and Trackpad
Paul agreed with us that the mouse wasn't dead, so he's now got both!



>>PROFILE

Name: Paul Lowe
Occupation: Company director
Been using a Mac for: Four years
Favourite hardware: iMac
Favourite software: iPhoto

So you buy a Mac that becomes your pride and joy, there to cater for all your computing needs whenever you need it; IT utopia, in other words. Well, it is until your wife and children get wind of it, after which you'll be lucky to get anywhere near the computer – does that sound familiar?

But for every problem there's a solution, and Paul Lowe, who's a director of a swimming pool firm, went out and bought himself an iPad.

"Before the iPad arrived, there was always a queue for the iMac," he says. "But the iPad's changed the way we do things. Now, it's often easier to do emails and surf the web without even using the Mac!"

His wife and children now all have iPods that they link up to their own *iTunes* libraries on the iMac, while Paul has an 8GB iPhone 3GS.

> *"I love to hate cables – they should never be on show! The back of the desk is fitted with conduits to hide them"*

The eagle-eyed among you will notice how the wiring in Paul's setup is conspicuous by its absence. But he hasn't just removed them all for the photograph. "I love to hate cables – they're needed but should never be on show!" he exclaims. That's easy enough when you're talking about the keyboard, trackpad and mouse (which, incidentally, he decided to keep after reading our article in *MF226*), but this setup takes hiding the wires to a whole new level.

"The whole back of the work desk is fitted with conduits to hide every USB lead and power supply. Then in one of the drawers, I've got a four-port USB hub hidden away. This also has an iPod connector and micro SD slot for my camera's memory card built-in," he explains. We're jealous!

Paul's children love their games, and the Mac App Store has opened their eyes to a whole new world of possibilities on this front, their current favourites being *Chopper 2* and *Pinball*.

He's also a big fan of *iPhoto*, which he's used to create a comprehensive archive of family memories. "We have the iPhone and a digital camera, and all our family trips and events are kept on it in the right order exactly how they happened. We also use the 'Make A Calender' function and put events in it on the months they happened, and then give them to family for Christmas. It's a lovely way to make really personal gifts," he adds. ●

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Words: Laurence Cable

I use my Mac for making music

Detroit DJ Carl Craig's a man of many musical talents – and a long-time Mac user…

>>PROFILE

Name: Carl Craig
Location: Detroit, USA
Occupation: DJ, music composer, producer and remixer, entrepreneur, record label owner
System(s): MacBook Pro, iPad
Web: www.carlcraig.net

MacFormat: Your music covers a huge range of styles – who were your inspirations and role models as you were growing up?
Carl Craig: I liked Quincy Jones, Electrofying Mojo – a local DJ in Detroit – Prince and Derrick May.

MF: Your career's taken you all over the world, but Detroit's very close to your heart. What is it about the place that you love?
CC: Detroit to me is like the Cuba of the United States. We're very militant about our independence; we have a spirit that is unlike anywhere else in the United States and we learn how to live off very little.

MF: When did you start to use a Mac in your work?
CC: I was interested in the early electronic adventures of Herbie Hancock when he was using an Apple IIe, so I knew of the possibilities that using a computer offered. When I was finally able to afford a Mac it was a Mac Classic. That was around 1992, maybe, and I was using *MOTU Performer* as a sequencer. From that point I knew I would never use anything but a Mac as a computer. Windows was never an option.

MF: What Mac do you have and how does it help you make, mix and produce music?
CC: I have a MacBook Pro with a SSD and I use it with *Logic Pro*. It's great because everything that I ever dreamt of when I was starting out in music I can do, plus many other things. I always wanted a Fairlight CMI, Synclavier, PPG, Minimoog or Prophet – all these types of synthesizers and music machines. Now I can have everything in one box.

MF: And what other software do you use?
CC: I use *Logic Pro*, *Traktor*, *Ableton*, *Pro Tools* and *Griid*. And then *Firefox* for inspiration.

MF: What kind of impact has the Mac had on your music?
CC: Maybe too much impact! I try to keep everything separate but it seems now that technology has got to the point where I feel I can use the Mac for everything – DJing, live, studio, making the coffee…

MF: Do you use an iPad or iPhone for your work, along with any particular applications?
CC: Yeah, I have an iPad with *Griid*, *Bloom*, *Korg iElectribe* and *Omni TR*.

MF: What made you get involved in the AKG Scholarship of Sound programme this year?
CC: I've done a lot of great work with the [separate] Red Bull Music Academy and I'm looking forward to seeing it happen in Detroit. I believe the AKG programme can be as beneficial for my learning as it is for others to learn. I really hope to see one happen in Detroit soon.

MF: What does the future hold for you? Any interesting projects you can tell us about?
CC: 20 years of [my record label] Planet-E is happening right now – I'm celebrating it by touring and releasing music. I'm also doing a 69 live show, versus live show and some DJing, remixing and producing. ●

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Gadgets

The hottest kit on the horizon.
Here's what Apple is up against

▶ Batman MIMOBOT Flash Drives

£TBA www.mimoco.com

What is it? MIMOBOT produces some of the most stylish USB flash drives around, and this latest licensed Batman series is both tongue in cheek and functional. What else do you need? The four main characters are available in 2GB to 16GB capacities.

When's it due? UK launch due soon.

Why are we excited? Forget the Batman Hollywood blockbusters. These flash drives are based on the comics, with Batman wearing blue and grey, and Robin in his red crime-fighting outfit. Each flash drive is packed with bonus content too, such as desktop wallpapers, icons, avatars and screensavers.

▲ Logitech K750 Solar Keyboard

£70 www.logitech.com

What is it? This wireless keyboard runs on solar power instead of batteries, so it's always charged and ready. It's only 7.5mm thick, and features Logitech Incurve keys for comfortable typing.

When's it due? Out now.

Why are we excited? To be honest, we're only a little bit excited. Although the K750 works on a Mac, it has a Windows key livery and there's no OS X version of the downloadable app that checks your keyboard's getting enough light. Hopefully Logitech will release a dedicated Mac model soon.

◀ Alto Tallboy

£225 www.mi-hub.co.uk

What is it? Here's a speaker that knows how to stand up for itself. The Alto Tallboy is compatible with all iPod and iPhone models. Once you're connected to your TV via the optical and coaxial inputs, use it as a speaker system for movies and gaming. It sounds great, especially when using the 3D virtual surround feature.

When's it due? Out now.

Why are we excited? It's not just for the iPhone – the Alto can be easily connected to a Mac via the 3.5mm input on the back of the unit. By selecting the 3.5mm input method on the front, you can get the audio from whatever is being played by the Mac.

▶ Silva Custom Bamboo MacBook Case

$180 (£109) www.silvaltd.com

What is it? These head-turning MacBook cases have been lovingly hand-crafted in carmel bamboo. They're available for the 13-inch and 15-inch MacBook Pro, and come with a stylish hand-burnished and oiled leather strap. The wool felt-lined interior will protect your notebook while it's being carried around, and the hand-rubbed finish will ensure it's much-admired by others on your journey into work.

When's it due? Out now to buy online.

Why are we excited? A little craftsmanship goes a very long way. It's great to keep our treasured Apple machine protected by something equally as well made. Also, bamboo is a renewable resource, so it's as environmentally friendly as it is attractive and hard-wearing. It's the stylish way to keep your MacBook Pro safe and sound.

PODSTA
Kings Of Leon
Come Around Sundown

▲ Podsta

£10 www.podsta.com

What is it? It looks a bit like a tennis-ball-gone-wrong, but it's actually a capable iPhone/iPod touch stand. It's made of soft, squishy foam so it won't break if you drop it. Can't say the same for your iPhone though…

When's it due? Out now.

Why are we excited? The Podsta is available in a range of colours, and is versatile and inexpensive. It's great to have a stand you can throw in your bag without worrying about it damaging your belongings.

Alphyn
INDUSTRIES, INC.

▶ Alphyn Industries SOMA-1 Wearcom

£114 http://alphynind.com

What is it? It's a pullover with a difference. The SOMA-1 Wearcom has a clear pocket in the left forearm for your iOS device. Support straps stop it moving around, and also help distribute the weight across the whole of your forearm, so it's comfortable to wear. There's a zip-up cover running along the arm for your headphones cable too.

When's it due? Out now.

Why are we excited? At last, there's no need to search your pockets for your iPod or iPhone, and no getting the cables tangled up in your pocket. Just be careful to remove your Apple gadgets before you put it in the wash.

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Feedback

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Whatever your Mac-related cares, concerns or calamities are, let us know about them by contacting us on the following email address: **macformat@futurenet.com**

Let us know what you think about your Mac, MacFormat and everything Apple

Twitter (@#!) talk

From the Twittersphere

We asked:
Will you upgrade to OS X 10.7 Lion as soon as it's out, or will you wait?

@Marvin_nz
"I will upgrade the day it comes out. As a dev I'm already using it, it's heaps faster than 10.6."

@alstonebridge
"Straight away. The extended use of multi-touch gestures will help justify the premature purchase of Magic Trackpad last year."

@Paul McGoven
"On launch. Each iteration of Mac OS provides worthwhile reasons for upgrading. Lion will be the next step."

@ikeontoast
"I never upgrade ASAP. I let the little issues arise and get sorted before upgrading, and get people's opinions."

@ashley_ings
"Straight away. There is trust in Apple products."

You can find out what we're up to each month by following the team at Twitter.com/MacFormat

Forward delete

I switched to a Mac in 2009 due to the 'halo' effect (loving my iPhone and then Airport Extreme Base Station). I won't say it's been easy though, as we own a business that does a lot of work for the US Government, and which requires *MS Office*. I'm the only one in our office using a Mac.

Anyhow, at the office I have a 27-inch iMac, with wireless keyboard, mouse, and Magic Trackpad. I was used to ergonomic keyboards, but the chiclet-style keys on my wireless keyboard are great! One thing I really dislike about it, though, is the [Delete] key – it's backwards! Is there an easy way to re-program it to be a forward delete? I don't want to hold the [Option] key either, or switch to a wired numeric keyboard. Help!
Steve Waddell

esc
~ ` ! 1 @ 2 # 3 $ 4 % 5 ^ 6 & 7 * 8 (9) 0 _ - + = delete
tab Q W E R T Y U I O P { [}] | \
caps lock A S D F G H J K L : ; " ' enter return
shift Z X C V B N M < , > . ? / shift
fn control alt option ⌘ command ⌘ command alt option

You can't reprogram keys on your keyboard, but holding the Function key might help.

MacFormat replies: The USA version of the Apple Wireless Keyboard (pictured above) has a [Delete] key where the British keyboard has the [Backspace] key (⇦). There's only one way to change what it does and that's to hold down the [Function] key (fn) if your keyboard has one. It will then perform a forward delete.

>>STAR LETTER / The universal cure

Two years ago my wife, son and I bought iMacs and iPads each, and although I still have my son's technical support, I find I don't call on his services that often as nothing much goes wrong with the iMac. I also subscribed to *MacFormat* and was interested in the information-packed June edition, particularly the 'Get help with your Mac' article.

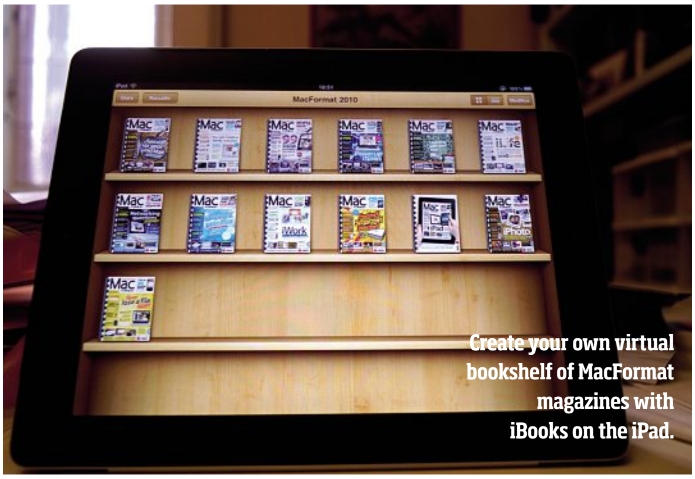
That very morning when the magazine arrived, I had a problem. Two of my three browsers failed to access the internet. This was serious, so I invoked technical support – my son – who fixed the problem in a jiffy. I detected an air of resignation in his voice when he asked if I'd tried shutting down and starting up again! It worked perfectly after doing exactly what he had told me to do.

Can I suggest that you might make an addition to the 'If it's still not fixed' panel in your feature? In addition to looking at logs, searching the web, trying the forums, tweeting or talking to Apple, try re-booting the computer first! It worked for me.
John Winter

MacFormat replies: If you ever have to talk to an IT helpdesk then regardless of platform, product or problem, nine times out of ten they'll ask you if you've turned it off and on again. For good reason too – it often seems that no matter what the problem, a restart is the cure!

>>STAR LETTER

Email all your letters to us at **macformat@futurenet.com** If yours gets picked as the MacFormat Star Letter, you'll be sent a fantastic DTT Deluxe. Almost impossibly tiny, this little USB device gives your Mac powerful digital TV reception.



Create your own virtual bookshelf of MacFormat magazines with iBooks on the iPad.

Secret keys

Thank you for the 'Secrets of Your Keyboard' article in issue 232. I edit my club's newsletters in English and French, and a lot of other stuff in Polish, so I tend to jump about between each language in keyboards and character palettes. It's great to have it all laid out! Incidentally, I used the @ sign in the 60s to mark a unit price (in French it is called *arrobase*).

Yolanta Boot

MF replies: Thanks Yolanta, we're glad to be of service!

MF on iPad 2

Having just bought an iPad 2, I've been interested in the possibility of uploading my PDF files and organising them with *iBooks*. One category of PDF files I have created is for user guides. With so many manuals accompanying every software and hardware product, it's impossible to carry the hard copies. Now, I can have and read my manuals wherever I am.

Another category I've created is for the PDF files of *MacFormat* magazines (grouped by year). It's incredible how much information you can retrieve from your magazines going back to the past issues. Until recently I had little interest in any article referring to the iPad, but now I have one, I'm going back to the older issues to find iPad information. The same applies to the tutorials, to the product reviews and so on. To cut a long story short, in addition to using the iPad 2 to see photos, watch movies and play games, I use it to carry around a huge weight of interesting papers (PDFs of *MacFormat* included) in a device that weighs just 1.35lbs.

Claudio Galli

MF replies: Great use of the iPad 2, Claudio! It's worth repeating that subscribers to *MacFormat* have access to the Subscriber area of www.macformat.co.uk, where they can download *MacFormat* issues stretching back to issue 200. To subscribe to *MacFormat* from the UK, see pages 30 and 31; international readers, see page 91. See this month's feature on page 24 for the *MacFormat* team's thoughts on the iPad 2.

iCal 'upgrade'

I have a first-gen iPod touch, but it's just been made obsolete by MobileMe's 'upgrade' to the 'new, improved' *iCal*, which will not run on iOS 3. It's not just that you lose bits here and there, you lose everything. There is no workaround; if I don't upgrade to the new *iCal* by 5 May, I lose all my MobileMe *iCal* data.

I am a long-term Apple fan and this issue upsets me. Maybe I should check out Google's offerings?

Doug MacArthur

MF replies: MobileMe has switched to the CalDav system, which isn't compatible with versions of iOS before 4. Sadly, it's a case of upgrade or be left behind in this instance. ●

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MAC vs iPAD

It's definitely a looker, but is an iPad something you should consider over a new Mac?

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Words: Graham Barlow **Photography:** James Looker

MacFormat investigates

Do you really need an iPad?

Are you thinking of getting an iPad instead of a new Mac? Hang on just a moment longer while MacFormat weighs up your options…

Back in 2008, Apple was getting a lot of flack for not launching a cheap netbook. With the recession starting to bite, netbook sales were booming, but Steve Jobs, Apple CEO, seemed unimpressed. "The market is just getting started – we'll see how it goes," he said in his characteristically enigmatic style. Then, after a long period of inactivity, Apple launched the iPad, and now nobody is talking about netbooks anymore. Tablets are the device du jour that everybody wants to own.

This month AppleInsider.com reported on speculation that Apple will sell between 40 million and 45 million iPads in 2011. This staggering figure was revealed to analyst Brian White in meetings with component suppliers during a tech trip with Ticonderoga Securities to China and Taiwan. That's a lot of sales for a device that nobody was sure they actually needed when it launched in 2010. Given the uptake, it seems pretty clear that people who would have normally considered buying a new laptop, or a smaller netbook, are switching to the iPad in droves.

We're now in our third consecutive quarter of a PC notebook sales decline in the US. But while PC sales may have passed their peak, if you factor in the iPad as an Apple computer, the sales are off the charts. "In an industry where growth is usually measured in single digits, the iPad business brings growth in three digits," reports industry analyst Horace Dediu of Asymco. "The bottom line is that Windows-only PC units are down 2% while OS X-based PC units are up 272% (excluding iPhone and iPod touch)."

The portability of an iPad is second to none – and that goes doubly for the new iPad 2.

Looking at figures like this, you realise that Apple CEO Steve Jobs was on the money when, at the launch of the iPad 2, he said we were moving into the era of the post-PC device. But what is it about the iPad that's got everybody so excited? And if you don't have one already, should you really consider getting one instead of your next Mac?

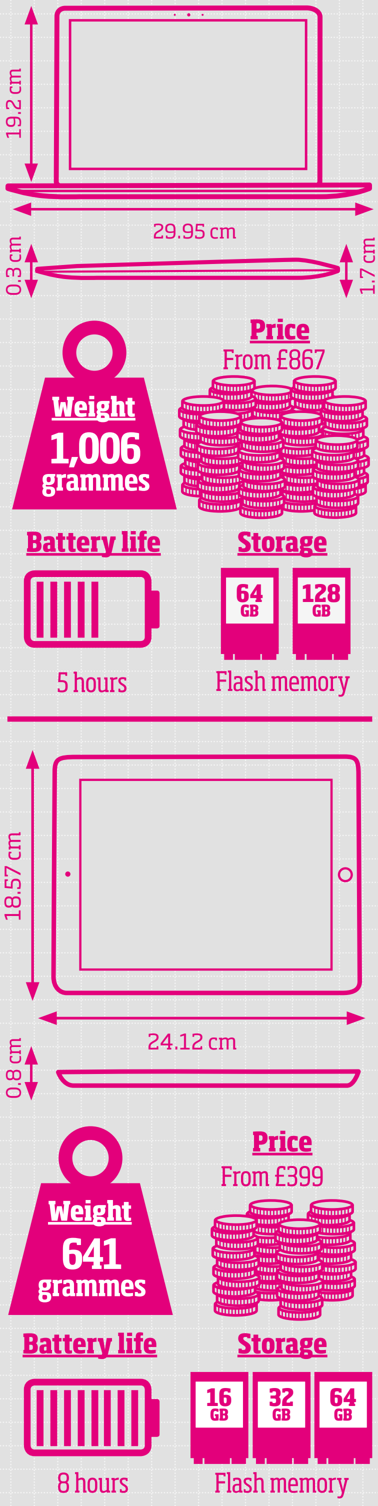
> *"People who would have normally considered buying a new laptop are switching to the iPad in droves"*

Millions of sales

The iPad's success has baffled many industry analysts who were keen to dismiss it at launch. You can see why they got it so wrong. Looked at objectively, the iPad is a very limited device compared to a Mac notebook – you can't plug in common Mac peripherals, it doesn't run the full OS X operating system, there's no Flash

MacBook Air – vs iPad 2 –

How do they stack up?


19.2 cm
29.95 cm
0.3 cm
1.7 cm
Weight
1,006 grammes
Price
From £867
Battery life
5 hours
Storage
64 GB
128 GB
Flash memory
18.57 cm
24.12 cm
0.8 cm
Weight
641 grammes
Price
From £399
Battery life
8 hours
Storage
16 GB
32 GB
64 GB
Flash memory

THE TIMES
President to US forces: 'Now smash al-Qaeda'
Interactive graphic: the men and women with Obama when he said 'We got him'
WAKE UP AND SMELL OUR COFFEE

The iPad 2 boasts Apple's most impressive accessory yet - the snap-on Smart Cover.

player, it doesn't have a physical keyboard and it's a sealed unit - there's no way to upgrade any of its components. And yet, you only have to pick one up for five minutes and you'll find yourself drawn into the amazing experience of using it. Touching things on a screen with your finger is such a totally natural, instinctive thing to do. Your photos in particular look fantastic on the iPad's screen, and there are already more apps to download from the App Store than you'll ever need; each one has the power to transform the iPad into a different type of device altogether.

In fact, it's the apps that make the iPad what it is. It's a totally blank slate that becomes whatever app you're running: load up *Mail* and it becomes an email device; load up *Safari* and it's a web browser; load up *Infinity Blade* and its a games console; load up *Photos* and it's a digital photo album, and so on.

People like to joke that Steve Jobs can sell just about anything to anyone, but that can't explain the success of the iPad and its millions of sales (7.33 million in the first quarter of 2011, and another 4.69 million in the second quarter of 2011). As supply problems attest, Apple is currently selling all the iPad 2s it can make. The iPad is a success because Apple really thought hard about what this device was going to be before it launched, and made sure it got all the important details right with the hardware and the software: the screen is the right size; the processor is fast enough that it doesn't feel like the iPad is sluggish to use; the multi-touch gestures feel right and natural when you use them; the onscreen keyboard has just the right spacing around the keys; and the battery life is long enough that you can use an iPad for a day without having to worry that you'll run out of power.

> *"People joke that Steve Jobs can sell just about anything, but that can't explain the success of the iPad"*

And let's not forget, the iPad is the perfect device for using on a sofa – the place where most people seem to spend all their time in the evenings these days. You don't need to sit up to use it, and it's small and light enough to be stashed behind a cushion, or dropped into a bag and taken anywhere you like. What's more, it's an instant hit with kids – even young children

The Wi-Fi + 3G version of the iPad ensures that you can get online – wherever you are.

who would struggle with a laptop can get hands-on with an iPad and enjoy the huge numbers of apps designed with them in mind.

A tablet apart

Of course, if you're looking to buy a tablet then it's worth checking out what else is available. RIM has the BlackBerry PlayBook – an attractive 7.6-inch long tablet that runs the BlackBerry Tablet OS and has higher resolution cameras than the iPad. Yet it lacks basic apps such as email (unless paired with a BlackBerry phone) and video chat. HP has the TouchPad, a 10-inch tablet that runs the lovely HP WebOS, but also lacks apps. Then there are the Windows 7 tablets, like the Acer Iconia Tab W500, the Novatech nTablet and the Zoostorm SL8 3310-9500 (catchy name, eh?). The obvious disadvantage here is that they run Windows 7, which Microsoft designed primarily as a desktop operating system, and doesn't really suit a tablet format; it's much too difficult to hit menu items accurately with your fingers.

> *"Tablets running Google's Android operating system represent the greatest challenge to Apple"*

Tablets running Google's Android operating system represent the greatest challenge to Apple, and there are lots of them – the Galaxy Tab from Samsung, the Dell Streak 5, the HTC Flyer, Hannspree Hannspad, ViewSonic ViewPad 10s, to name a few. But the vast majority run different versions of Android 2, which was designed to run on a phone, not a tablet. We've generally found all tablets running Android 2 to be sluggish, and to be honest they're best avoided. However, Android 3 (codenamed Honeycomb) is Google's first operating system that's designed specifically to run on tablet devices and is going to make its debut on these shores this year in the Dell Streak 7, Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1V and the Motorola XOOM.

Since we're an Apple-focused magazine you might think we're being biased towards the iPad, so we decided to track down a person who preferred an Android tablet to an iPad and get their side of the story. To be honest, it was really hard to find one, since most of the other tablets have yet to launch. However, we did manage to track down TechRadar.com's Reviews Editor James Rivington who, as a technology journalist, is one of the very few people in the UK to have spent a decent amount of time with an Android 3 tablet. We were eager to find out what it was about the Android tablets that he preferred:

"I love my iPad 2. I use it every day. But after reviewing a variety of Android 3.0 tablets in recent weeks, I just can't help liking them a bit more. If I'm going to pay £400-plus for a tablet, I want it to be definitively mine. I want to be able to customise it beyond recognition. I want to be able to install all manner of different live wallpapers, different keyboards, user interface modifications, and so on. And I want it to perform seamlessly no matter how many of these modifications I've made. I don't want to be told what I can and

»

» TEAM TALK

"Apple has really raised the bar for tablet devices"

Graham Barlow
Editor-in-Chief

I was an early adopter with the iPad, getting one as soon as I could, and I've done the same with the iPad 2. Initially I was a little unimpressed with the second version. Sure, it had two cameras and it was a lot thinner, but I wasn't convinced there was enough of a difference to make it worth upgrading. But then I got into *iMovie* for iPad – it's brilliant! I wouldn't use the iPad to take video though, it's just too unwieldy, but I can import video footage shot on my iPhone 4 and then edit it on the iPad. And I can lounge on my sofa while I'm doing it all! Having pretensions to be a guitar player, I also like to mess around with *GarageBand* – plugging in my guitar and running it though the different amps and effects is a lot of fun. The iPad is often criticised as a media consumption device, but with these two apps Apple has really raised the bar for tablet devices. I'm really excited to see what comes next.

"For almost a year, I wasn't impressed by the concept"

Ian Osborne
Reviews Editor

You don't need an iPad, but do you want one? For a year, I didn't. I wasn't impressed by the concept, and didn't see what it would give me over and above the MacBook and iPhone I already owned. I was also disappointed it used the walled garden of iOS instead of a tablet OS X. But I gradually warmed to the device. The combination of instant-on convenience and large-screen accessibility won me over, and a host of apps convinced me I wanted one after all. BBC iPlayer and TV Catchup are great for portable TV, *iBooks* is an excellent ebook reader and *Stanza* lets you read books and periodicals saved in formats Apple's app can't handle. Gaming is fun on the 9.7-inch screen too. None of these tasks are beyond my other kit, but the iPad does them better. Maybe Steve Jobs was right – it's a third category of device that sits well between notebooks and smartphones.

TABLET ALTERNATIVES / The iPad isn't the only player in town

BlackBerry Playbook

£300 www.blackberry.com/UK/PlayBook

While many new tablets have 10-inch screens, RIM has opted for a 7-inch with the new BlackBerry Playbook. It runs BlackBerry Tablet OS (sadly lacking basics apps), has a 1GHz dual-core processor, 1GB RAM and supports Adobe Flash. Its cameras are a higher resolution than the iPad, but it needs to pair with a BlackBerry phone for things that really should be included, such as email or an address book (although webmail works through an internet browser).

Motorola XOOM

£480 www.motorola.com/XOOM

The 4G-ready Motorola XOOM runs Google's Android 3.0 Honeycomb, the version of Android designed specifically for tablets. Its specifications mount up to a 1GHz dual-core processor, a 1280x800 resolution screen, HDMI out, a 5MP rear-facing camera capable of 720p video capture and a 2MP front-facing camera for video chat. There's more flexibility available in getting media onto a XOOM tablet and playing it than you'll find with the iPad, but far fewer applications are currently available.

HP TouchPad

£TBA www.hp.com/uk

Running HP webOS, this 10-inch tablet presents an interesting alternative to the iPad, sporting an operating system that is nicer to look at than the functional but aesthetically challenged Android OS. It has a 1024x768 resolution screen, a front-facing 1.3-megapixel camera for video chat, and wireless charging. It makes use of what are referred to as 'activity cards' to help organise whatever you're working on. Again, this is one the public will have to wait for – the HP TouchPad is scheduled to be available this summer.

Galaxy Tab 10.1V

£TBA www. samsung.com/GalaxyTab

Confusingly, there are two versions of this tablet in existence – the 10.1 is the latest and thinnest version, but it lacks the 8MP camera of the previous version, known as the 10.1V. The 10.1V has been earmarked to go on sale in the UK, but the price has yet to be announced by Samsung. Powered by NVIDIA's dual-core Tegra 2 CPU with 1GB of RAM, the 10.1V is a powerful Android tablet. The 8MP rear-facing camera is it's best feature though, and puts even the new iPad 2's camera to shame.

Dell Streak 7

FROM £299 www.dell.com

If you're looking for something a little smaller than an iPad then this 7-inch tablet with a meagre 800x480 resolution display from Dell is an interesting proposal. It runs Android 2.2, but with a unique Dell interface over the top called Dell Stage. It boasts a dual-core processor and 16GB or 32GB of memory. Its front and back cameras are 1.3 and 5MP respectively, and it's available for just £299 direct from Dell. There's also support for SD, MMC and SDHC cards – the ideal camera companion?

Want a white iPad? Then choose the latest model - the iPad 2.

> *"Apple has updated the iPad to include cameras for FaceTime chat, and made it faster, thinner and lighter"*

can't do with it, and what media formats I can and can't play. That's the thing with my iPad, I don't really feel that it's mine – it's Steve's! And of course that's not even mentioning the superior multitasking in Android 3.0, the memory card expansion slot in the Motorola Xoom, the 8MP camera on the Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1V, the 3D camera on the LG Optimus Pad. And of course you don't have to put an Android tablet anywhere near *iTunes*, which is a massive bonus in my book!"

James makes some good points about Apple's approach to controlling what media you can play on your iPad and what apps you can install, but the result of Apple's walled garden is that you can be safe in the knowledge that no app you install can damage or break your iPad, and will be of a reasonably high quality. Of course, that does mean you sacrifice some of your freedom regarding what you can do to the device. He's also right that having to use *iTunes* to sync media to your iPad is sometimes a pain. But if the end result is a better overall user experience than any other tablet currently offers, aren't these necessary evils?

As you'll see from the box above, some of the alternative tablets do have better specs than an iPad, particularly when it comes to the quality of the cameras, but when it comes to simply enjoying the device, do these things matter? "Technology alone is not enough", said Steve Jobs when he launched the iPad 2, and we think he's got a point.

The question of whether to get an iPad instead of a MacBook is a bit nonsensical, because you still need a Mac (or a PC) to use your iPad with. It's true that you can use your iPad without touching your Mac or PC, but you'll still need one initially. First there's the activation, which requires you to plug your iPad into a Mac or PC with *iTunes* on it. Then there's the question of backing up your iPad – you'll need to connect it again to do this. And of course, all the iOS software updates require connection to a Mac or PC. At the moment the iPad is still very much a peripheral. The potential is there for it to be a standalone device, but we're not quite there yet.

3G or not 3G? That's the question

Apple has updated the iPad to include video cameras for FaceTime chat, and made it even faster, thinner and lighter. It's also dropped the price slightly. But if you've already got an iPad is it worth upgrading? In all honesty, probably not. The original iPad is still a great iPad, and at the time of going to press you could pick up a 16GB Wi-Fi version for the rock-bottom price of £289

The iPad doesn't come with a stylus, but there is nothing stopping you from using one with it.

on Apple's Refurb Store (**http://store.apple.com/uk-refurb**). Of course, if you want the very latest model with all the bells and whistles, then opt for the iPad 2. The only question is, which one to get? There are three memory sizes (16, 32 and 64GB), and a choice of Wi-Fi or Wi-Fi + 3G. The 32GB seems to be the best choice of size for most people, as it hits the sweet spot between cost and capacity. Obviously, having a 3G iPad gives you the advantage of being always connected to the internet (see our review of the iPad Wi-Fi + 3G on page 87 this issue) – if you plan to travel with your iPad a lot then this can be absolutely vital. Unfortunately, merely opting for the 3G version of the iPad whacks another £100 onto the price of purchase, and then you've got to factor in the cost of your data plan as well (see **http://store.apple.com** to compare rate plans). Depending on how much data you're going to use, you might consider getting an iPad on a contract from one of the network providers, since this lowers the initial purchase cost considerably. But don't forget that there are other options. You can always purchase the cheaper Wi-Fi version of the iPad and get a MiFi device, which creates a wireless hotspot that you can connect to from your iPad. And of course, you can now create a hotspot on your iPhone 4 provided that you have tethering enabled as part of your contract. Both solutions require a bit more messing around each time you want to get connected – the beauty of the 3G iPad is that you simply turn it on and you're online. So, if you can afford the 3G version of the iPad, our advice is to go for it for the sheer convenience.

> *"You could always purchase the cheaper Wi-Fi version of the iPad and get a MiFi device to accompany it"*

If you still need help making up your mind then see what the *MacFormat* team thought in the sidebars of this feature. But what about our original question – do you really need an iPad? You still need a Mac to do proper 'work', but fantastic apps like *iMovie* and *GarageBand* are starting to demonstrate how the iPad can be used for creating content as well as consuming it. But perhaps the most important thing about using an iPad is that it's a lot of fun, and that is exactly what people want. ●

TEAM TALK

"I've yet to bite the bullet and buy one of my own"

Tim Hardwick
Production Editor

I've enjoyed playing with the iPad since it arrived in the office, but I've yet to bite the bullet and buy one of my own. I'm the proud owner of a 15-inch MacBook Pro, which currently serves all of my Mac needs. As such I've so far been unable to justify the extra outlay. The iPad's restrictive OS and lack of keyboard is something that I find difficult to accept, even if I do appreciate Apple's reasons for this approach. The latter omission can of course be solved with a bluetooth keyboard, but then you have a setup that removes the 'take anywhere' appeal that defines the iPad from the off. Suddenly you're no longer using an iPad, but an iPad-plus-peripheral. If anything, I'm more inclined to go for Apple's 11-inch MacBook Air: its slender dimensions, full-size keyboard, flash-based storage and fully capable operating system make for a portable Mac to die for. And as for iOS apps, I can always reach for my iPhone!

"My iPad 1 does everything I need so why upgrade?"

Alex Thomas
Art Editor

As soon as the iPad was launched I knew I wanted one, however it was only when I saw the huge variety of apps available that I knew I needed one! For me, the iPad is all about the apps, not the hardware, so as long as my iPad can run apps like *GarageBand*, *Brushes* and *World of Goo*, then I'm happy. I'm sure in time I'll look to upgrade as the apps begin to make more of Apple's newer, faster processors, but for now my iPad 1 does everything I need. I bought my iPad towards the end of 2010 and people said I should wait for the iPad 2 with all the new features. However, I'm not the kind of person who always has to have the latest incarnation of Apple kit. I have an old white MacBook and an iPhone 3G running iOS 3, and I wasn't convinced that the camera or new design was enough for me to ditch my iPad 1 – although when I saw Smart Covers, I admit I was tempted!

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Words: Rod Lawton **Illustration:** Mike @Magictorch

Get more from Pages

So what makes Pages special, and why should you use it? Read on…

Word processing programs are one of the most basic and essential tools for any computer user, and *Pages* is Apple's own version of what a word processor should be. But what makes *Pages* different?

First, it's cheap. *Pages* is part of the *iWork* suite, which sells for £72 and consists of three apps – *Pages*, *Numbers* and *Keynote* – which means that *Pages* itself costs just £24. It's also available on the Mac App Store as a separate purchase for just £12.

Second, it's beautiful to look at and to work with. You can start with a clean, blank page, or use one of the beautiful preset templates, where all you have to do is type in your own words and drag in your own pictures.

Third, despite its apparent simplicity, it's still an extremely versatile program that can do most things you might ask of it.

At home, it's perfect for daily computing, such as writing letters and doing schoolwork. But it can also handle longer, more structured reports, dissertations and articles, thanks to its table of contents tools, page numbering and sections, and compatibility with the widely recognised *EndNote* citations tool and *MathType* equation editor.

> *"The term 'word processor' hardly begins to describe the things Pages can achieve"*

And if you run a small business, *Pages* is perfect both for everyday correspondence and for leaflets, posters, newsletters and flyers. It also has mail merge tools for bulk mailshots too.

The ideas-organising Outline mode, meanwhile, is perfect for authors, as are the clutter-free fullscreen mode and live word counts.

The aim of this feature is to explain how to get started, how to work smarter and how to share your work with others. The term 'word processor' hardly begins to describe the range of things that *Pages* can achieve… »

ecial, a
have to type in your own words
and add your own pictures, but
the task is much less daunting
when you can already see the
'finished' page right from the start.
HOW TO CR
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The basics explained…

Getting started with Pages is easy when you understand its templates

One of *Pages*' key features is its range of template designs. These are more than just preset text styles and colour schemes, they're finished pages that are already populated with dummy text and placeholder images. While you still have to put in your own words and pictures, the task is less daunting when you can see the 'finished' page from the start.

Pages is both a word processor and a page-layout program, and this is key to understanding how it works.

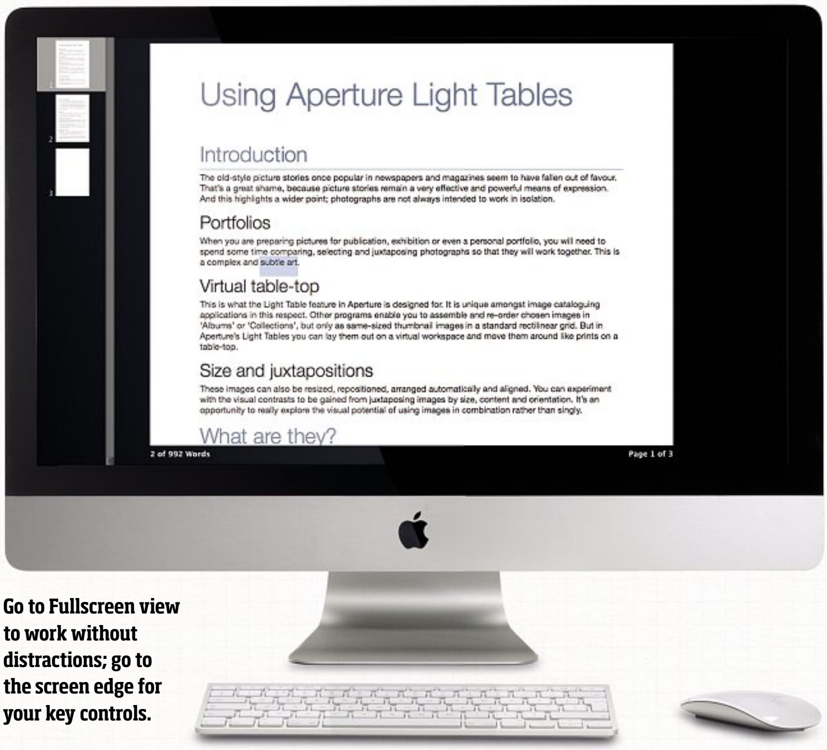
When you first create a document or start from a template, you need to choose the type. Word processor documents work exactly like a traditional word processor. You can insert photos, graphics, charts and tables, but essentially you're dealing with a single tract of text – you just keep on typing for as long as you need to, and the software adds pages automatically.

Page Layout mode is different. Here, you're choosing the design of the document first, with the intention of adding text and pictures to fit the layout, rather than modifying the layout later to fit the content. In this mode, *Pages* is more like a desktop publishing program than a word processor.

Choose your template

And this is where *Pages* shows off its trump card – its Page Layout templates. These are attractive, modern and professional-looking designs in their own right, but there's more to it than that. Many of these templates are for multi-page documents such as newsletters or brochures, and they contain a selection of page designs, all within the same design set. You build your documents page by page, choosing the layout you want each time.

But here's the important thing: decide at the start if you want a Word Processing or Page Layout document, because you can't change the document type later.



Using Aperture Light Tables

Introduction

The old-style picture stories once popular in newspapers and magazines seem to have fallen out of favour. That's a great shame, because picture stories remain a very effective and powerful means of expression. And this highlights a wider point; photographs are not always intended to work in isolation.

Portfolios

When you are preparing pictures for publication, exhibition or even a personal portfolio, you will need to spend some time comparing, selecting and juxtaposing photographs so that they will work together. This is a complex and subtle art.

Virtual table-top

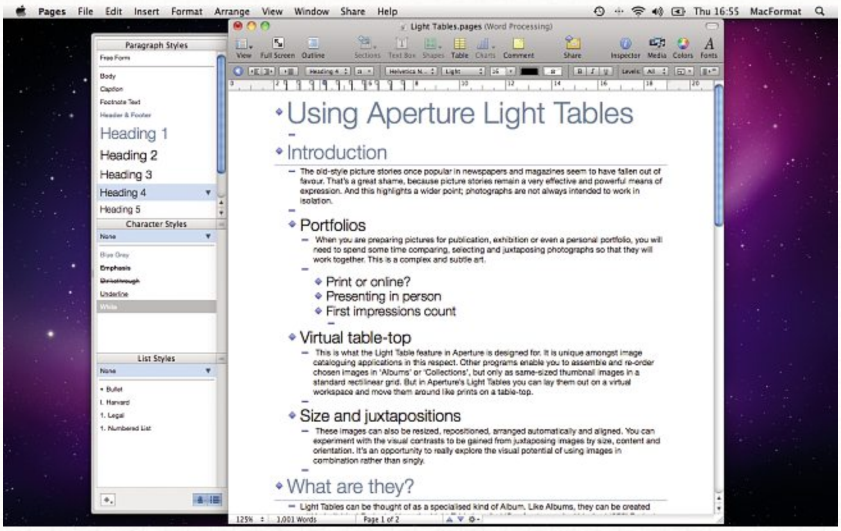
This is what the Light Table feature in Aperture is designed for. It is unique amongst image cataloguing applications in this respect. Other programs enable you to assemble and re-order chosen images in 'Albums' or 'Collections', but only as same-sized thumbnail images in a standard rectilinear grid. But in Aperture's Light Tables you can lay them out on a virtual workspace and move them around like prints on a table-top.

Size and juxtapositions

These images can also be resized, repositioned, arranged automatically and aligned. You can experiment with the visual contrasts to be gained from juxtaposing images by size, content and orientation. It's an opportunity to really explore the visual potential of using images in combination rather than singly.

What are they?

Go to Fullscreen view to work without distractions; go to the screen edge for your key controls.



- Using Aperture Light Tables
- Introduction
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  - Portfolios
    - When you are preparing pictures for publication, exhibition or even a personal portfolio, you will need to spend some time comparing, selecting and juxtaposing photographs so that they will work together. This is a complex and subtle art.
      - Print or online?
      - Presenting in person
      - First impressions count
  - Virtual table-top
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- What are they?
  - Light Tables can be thought of as a specialised kind of Album. Like Albums, they can be created

Outline view is available for Word Processing documents; use it to brainstorm and organise ideas into headings.

Our annotations show the key features of the *Pages* interface. In this section we'll concentrate on the text-formatting options. *Pages* templates come with preset text formats, and you can use these as they are or manually override them with your own choice of font, size and colours. You can also do this using the Format Bar or the Inspector.

The Format Bar runs horizontally across the top of the screen, just below the toolbar icons. It's context-sensitive, so that when you select some text, it displays text-specific controls and options.

Format your text

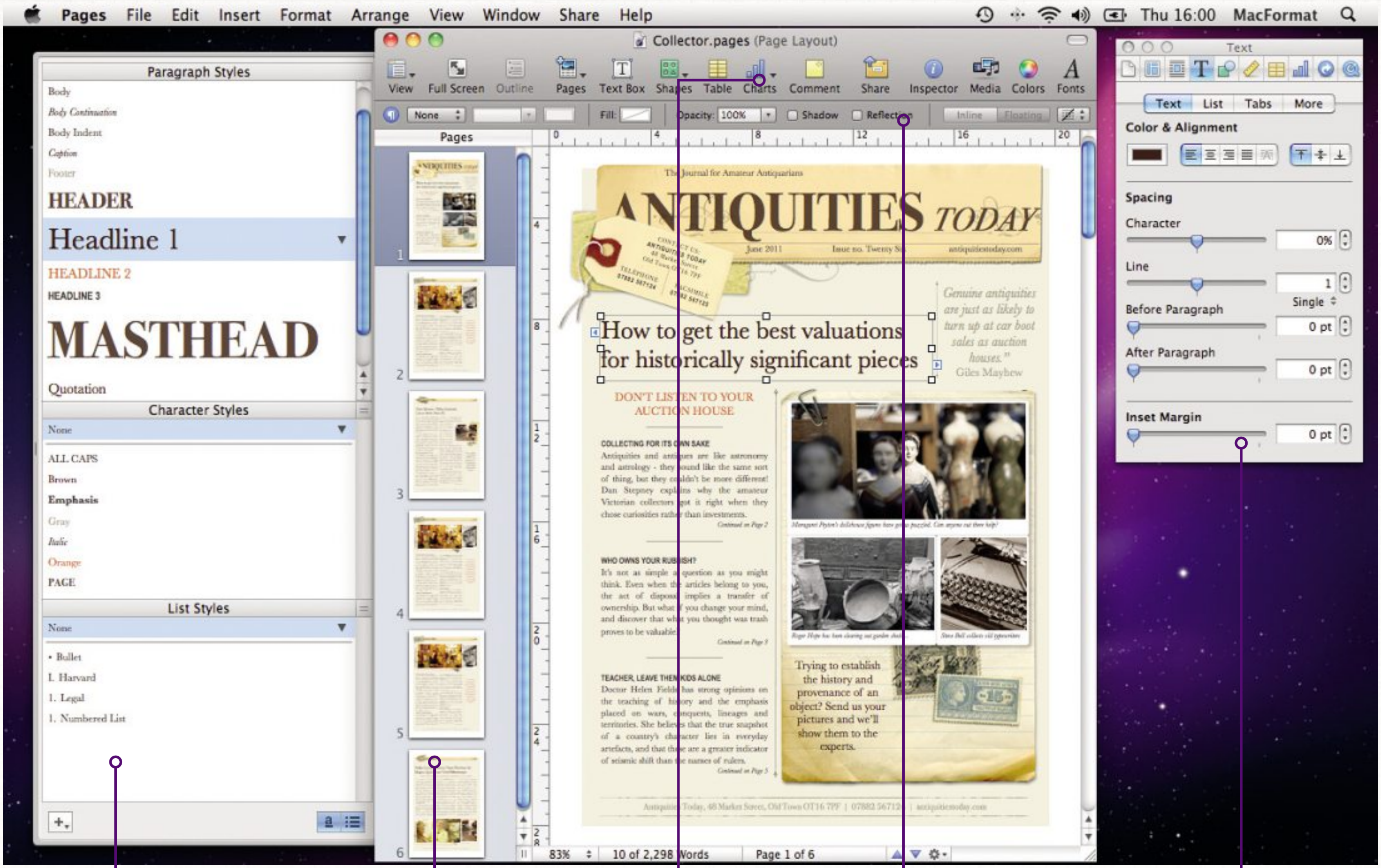
These include a font menu that displays all the fonts in your system, but with an extra section at the top for any fonts recently used in that document; this does save a lot of scrolling. There are also menus for selecting font variants (Regular, Bold, Italic and so on), the font size, colour and background colour.

The Format Bar is fine for basic adjustments, but for more detailed options you need the Inspector, which is displayed using a button on the toolbar.

The Inspector is split into tabs, and if you select the Text tab, you'll see a whole array of text adjustment options, including character and line spacing, list styles and indents, tab settings, and more.

This is a general theme in *Pages* – the Format Bar puts the most common adjustments conveniently to hand at

» HOW TO / Find your way around Pages


Pages
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MacFormat
Paragraph Styles
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Page 1 of 6
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Styles Draw
The Styles Draw displays a WYSIWYG that lists the styles in the document. Apply a style by clicking its name, and using the menu to modify or re-apply the style.

At a glance
This panel displays pages as thumbnails. As well as providing a quick visual reference to the document's structure, it's a quick way to navigate to specific pages.

Main toolbar
Use it to insert graphics and display the Inspector and Media panels. You can display Colors and Fonts, but these can also be changed in the Format Bar or Inspector.

Format Bar
The Format Bar is context-sensitive, and the controls displayed depend on the object selected. It's quick for changing key settings, but the Inspector is more in-depth.

Inspector
The Inspector consists of different tabs, each one designed for adjusting specific object types. So, for example, you have a Text Inspector, Graphic Inspector and so on.

the top of the window, while the Inspector is better used for more in-depth modifications.

Now it's easy enough to make manual formatting changes to your text, but this can prove inefficient in the long run. So, like other word processing programs, *Pages* offers text 'styles' which speed the whole thing up and will make your documents look more consistent. You can see these by opening the Styles Drawer via the View menu.

Styles come in three types. Paragraph styles are the ones you'll use most often because they contain all the text properties, including font, size, colour, line spacing, indents, tabs and more. Character styles apply a smaller range of properties, which include font, size and colour, but not line spacing, indents or tabs. Character styles apply to individual words, phrases or sections of text within a paragraph. List styles control the appearance of bulleted or numbered lists, including font, size and colour, bullet style and indents.

» QUICK TIP
Change the zoom setting using the slider at the bottom of the Template Chooser window. If you move the mouse pointer over a template's thumbnail, you can skim through all the different page designs it contains.

Get styled up

There are pop-up menus on the Format Bar for applying styles, but it's easier to use the Style drawer instead because it's better to override any manual text formatting and to modify the existing styles. With styles, you can make global changes to your document later. When you modify a style, the change is applied throughout the document where the style has been used.

But while text will be the mainstay of most *Pages* documents, it really takes graphics to bring your design alive. And, so, on to the next section… »

Create stunning documents

You don't need to be a graphic designer to produce great-looking pages

Words might be the mainstay of your documents, but graphics will really bring it to life. You can add photos, shapes, tables and charts to your *Pages* documents, and here's a guide to how these work.

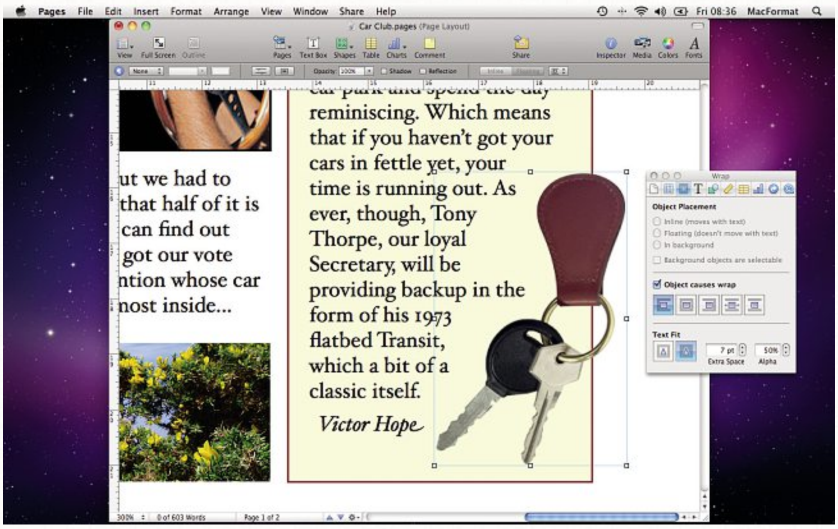
There are two ways to add photos to your work. One is to open a *Finder* window and simply drag the photo across and onto the document window. The other is to open the Media panel in *Pages* (there's a button on the toolbar). This displays the contents of your *iPhoto* (or *Aperture*) library, and you can browse through your Events and Albums to find the photos you need. Alternatively, you can use the search box at the bottom.

When you first drag a photo onto a page, it's displayed as a 'floating' graphic. In other words, it's fixed in position on the page and the text flows around it.

If you're dragging a photo into a placeholder on a template, it's slightly different. Here, the photo is resized and rotated automatically to fit the placeholder. You can adjust the placeholder afterwards, and you can also drag your photos onto template pages outside placeholder boxes.

Go with the flow

If you want the picture to flow with the text, you need to change it from a 'Floating' graphic to an 'Inline' graphic, and in Word Processing documents there are buttons on the Format Bar for swapping between the two. In Page Layout documents you can copy the photo, place the insertion point in the text and paste it. Now, the photo will be embedded in the text, and when the text reflows, the photo will go with it.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Page 1 of 2

ut we had to that half of it is can find out got our vote ntion whose car nost inside...

reminiscing. Which means that if you haven't got your cars in fettle yet, your time is running out. As ever, though, Tony Thorpe, our loyal Secretary, will be providing backup in the form of his 1973 flatbed Transit, which a bit of a classic itself.

Victor Hope

The Wrap Inspector enables you to choose how Pages flows text around your pictures.

» QUICK TIP

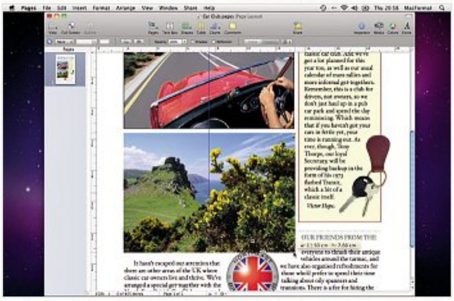
Create and import a table in *Numbers*. There are preset styles, or use the Format > Copy Table Style and Format > Paste Table Style commands.

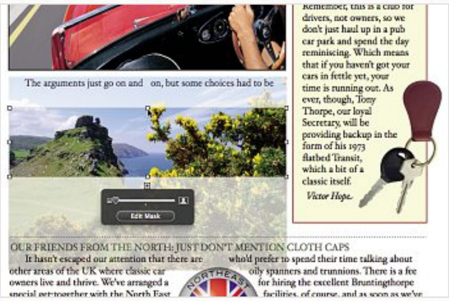
To move a floating photo, just drag it to where you want it. To resize a photo, it's just as easy – simply drag on one of the edge or corner handles. You can also rotate your photos by holding down the ⌘ key and dragging on one of the handles.

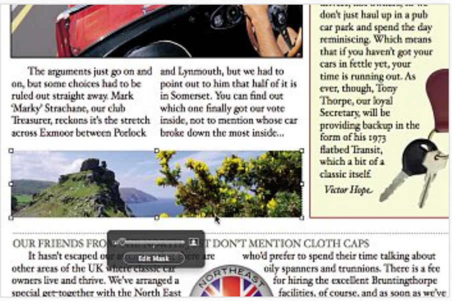
However, *Pages* doesn't stop there. It also has a very powerful and useful 'masking' feature that enables you to crop photos to fit the space available or to zoom in on a particular area; you can take a look at our walkthrough to see how this works.

You can add frames to your photos, masked or otherwise, using the pop-up Stroke and Picture Frame

» HOW TO / Mask a photo







01 Add your photo

We've added this photo to our document, and by dragging a corner handle we can make it the same width as the photo above. The dimensions are displayed in a tooltip, and the Alignment Guides snap it into position. At the moment it's displacing text and is too tall…

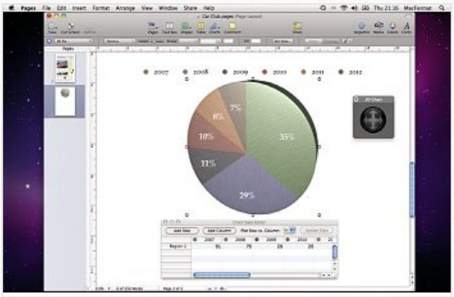
02 Choose your shape

We want a narrow letterbox-shaped section of this picture, so we add a mask within the photo using the Format > Mask command. We drag the mask's handles to produce the size and shape needed. Click inside the mask to drag and reposition the image.

03 Finish off

When you've finished, click outside the mask to confirm your changes. From now on you can move, resize and reposition the masked photo as normal, the only difference being that underneath it now displays an Edit Mask button so you can re-edit if you need to.

» HOW TO / Create a chart from plain data



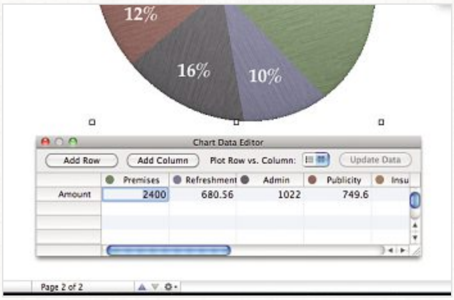


Chart Data Editor

Add Row
Add Column
Plot Row vs. Column:
Update Data

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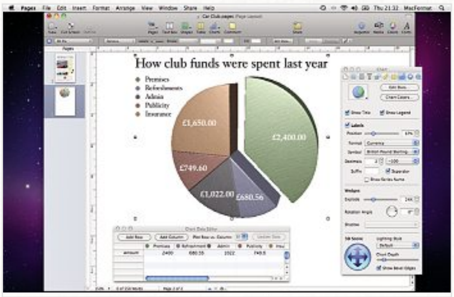
Page 2 of 2



01 Choose your chart

Add punch to your documents by turning data into a chart. Do this by creating a chart in *Numbers* and then copying it across, but for small amounts of data it's just as easy to create it entirely in *Pages*. Start by choosing a chart type from the Charts menu.

02 Data entry

Type your data into the Chart Editor, below the chart. Here, we've typed categories of expenditure into the header at the top (these are the chart Labels), and entered figures in the row below (the data 'series'). It already looks good, but there's more that can be done…

03 Looking good

Using the Chart Inspector, you can change the way the numbers in the segments are displayed: swapping from percentages to currency amounts for instance. You can also display and enter a chart Title. Chart elements can be altered, too.

menu on the Format Bar, where there are also checkboxes for Shadow and Reflection effects – and there are further options in the Graphic Inspector.

But sometimes you need a diagram rather than a photo, and this is where the Shape tools come in. Shapes are displayed in a drop-down menu on the main toolbar and, like photos, shapes can be repositioned and resized. You can change basic Shape properties using the Format Bar and apply more detailed adjustments with the Inspector.

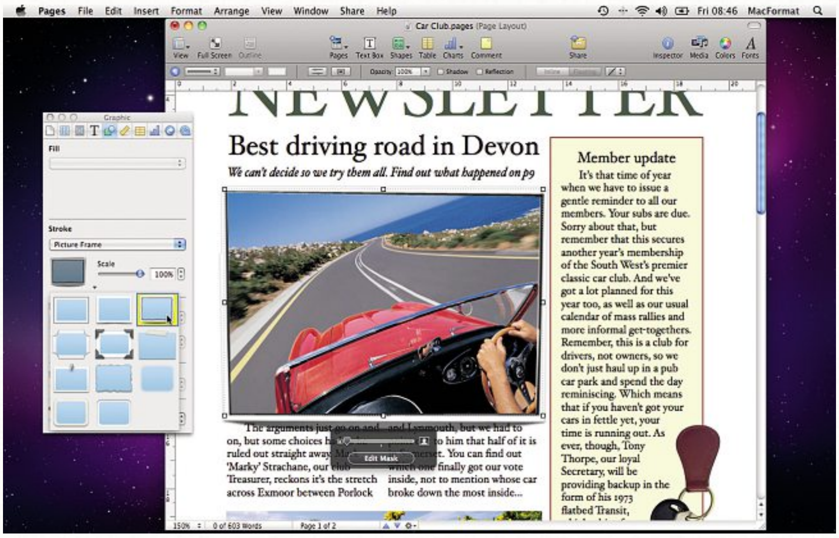
Shapes might look comparatively primitive, but you can do more with them than you think. Some have additional (blue) control handles for changing the shape properties, so with callout shapes, for example, you can change the radius of curvature at the corners, lengthen or shorten the callout 'arrow', and move it to different positions around the edge of the shape. You can also add text to the inside of a shape simply by double-clicking it.

The Polygon tool is especially interesting. You can use this to create bezier-style curves and shapes, and manipulate the points and control handles just as you would in a vector drawing package such as *Illustrator*. *Pages*' drawing tools aren't as sophisticated, obviously, but it's still surprising what you can do.

In the charts

Tables and charts can add visual interest to your pages, too, especially if you have an information-heavy document that doesn't have any pictures but still needs an extra 'lift'. Just stay on the lookout for data in your text that could be made more graphical.

For example, maybe you've got a list of pros and cons for a particular action, a set of specifications or maybe some sales figures or a price list? Instead of leaving that as plain text, select it and use the Format > Convert Text to Table command. Each line in your list of data will be converted into a row, and if you used tab stops to separate the data in the lines, these will turn into columns in the table.



NEWSLETTER

Best driving road in Devon

We can't decide so we try them all. Find out what happened on p9

Member update

It's that time of year when we have to issue a gentle reminder to all our members. Your subs are due. Sorry about that, but remember that this secures another year's membership of the South West's premier classic car club. And we've got a lot planned for this year too, as well as our usual calendar of mass rallies and more informal get-togethers. Remember, this is a club for drivers, not owners, so we don't just haul up in a pub car park and spend the day reminiscing. Which means that if you haven't got your cars in fettle yet, your time is running out. As ever, though, Tony Thorpe, our loyal Secretary, will be providing backup in the form of his 1973 flatbed Transit,

Add one of a number of preset Picture Frame designs to your photos to provide a decorative border.

» QUICK TIP

If you have a logo or photo of an object with a plain background, you can flow text around the object. Select the Format > Instant Alpha command, then drag on the background colour to mask it.

Now you can use the Table Inspector to add Header and Footer rows, change the cell background colours, alter the column width and height, and format the table in whatever style you like.

But you don't have to stop at tables… If you have any kind of numerical data, there's almost certainly a chart type you can use to make it appear more interesting and display it graphically so that it's easier for your readers to digest. Take a look at our walkthrough above to see how this works. The chart is created using the fonts and colours of the current template, but you can then choose your own settings with the Chart Inspector.

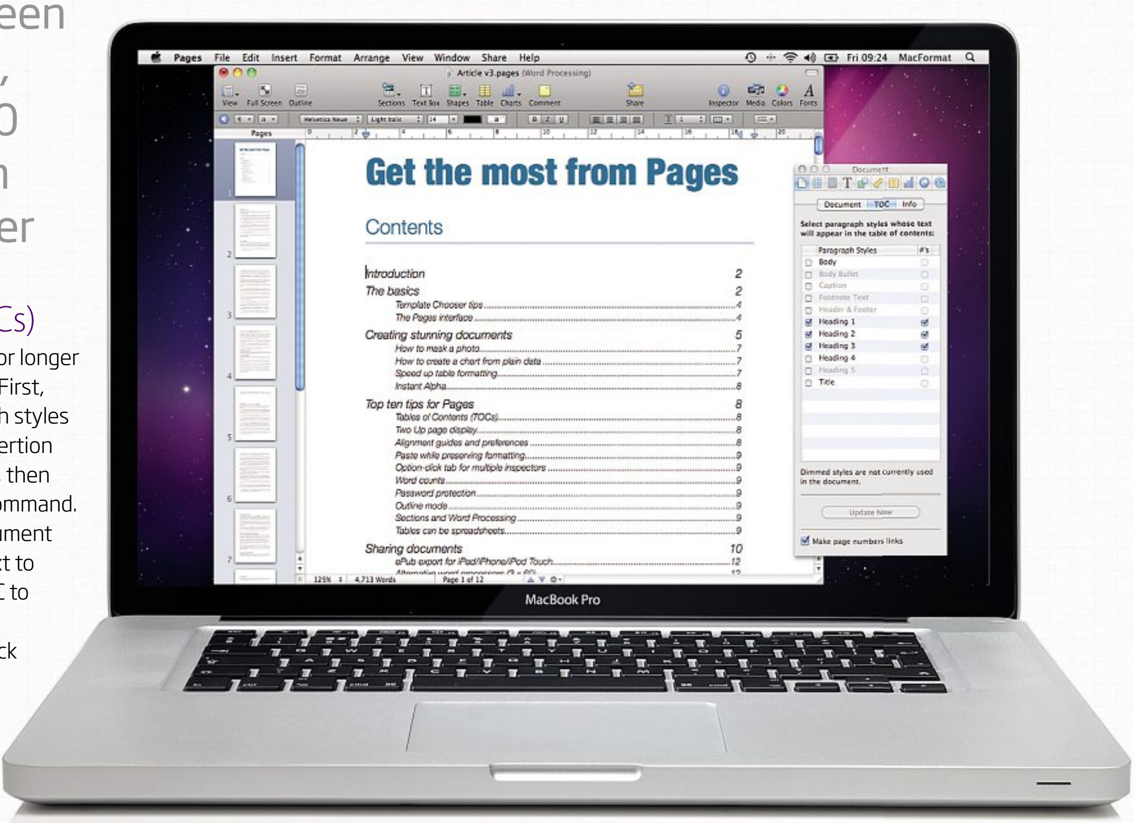
Adding graphics to your documents is really easy, but *Pages* also has some very powerful formatting, styling and layout tools – and this superficial simplicity combined with real in-depth power is a running theme throughout the whole *iWork* suite. »

Top 10 tips for Pages

Now that you've seen how easy Pages is, here are our top 10 ways to work even smarter and quicker

Tables of Contents (TOCs)

01 Tables of Contents are useful for longer documents, and so easy to do. First, make sure you use defined paragraph styles for your headings. Now place the insertion point where you want it to be added, then use the Insert > Table of Contents command. This displays the TOC tab in the Document Inspector, and you check the box next to each heading style you want the TOC to include. If you check the 'Make page numbers links' box below, you can click on a page number in the TOC to go straight to that heading. This works both in Page and exported PDF version files.



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Article v3.pages (Word Processing)
View Full Screen Outline Sections Text Box Shapes Table Charts Comment Share Inspector Media Colors Fonts
4,713 Words
Page 1 of 12
MacBook Pro

Get the most from Pages

Contents

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The basics 2
Template Chooser tips 4
The Pages interface 4
Creating stunning documents 5
How to mask a photo 7
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Speed up table formatting 7
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Alignment guides and preferences 8
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Outline mode 9
Sections and Word Processing 9
Tables can be spreadsheets 9
Sharing documents 10
ePub export for iPad/iPhone/iPod Touch 12

Document | TOC | Info

Select paragraph styles whose text will appear in the table of contents:

	Paragraph Styles	#'s
☐	Body	☐
☐	Body Bullet	☐
☐	Caption	☐
☐	Footnote Text	☐
☐	Header & Footer	☐
☑	Heading 1	☑
☑	Heading 2	☑
☑	Heading 3	☑
☐	Heading 4	☐
☐	Heading 5	☐
☐	Title	☐

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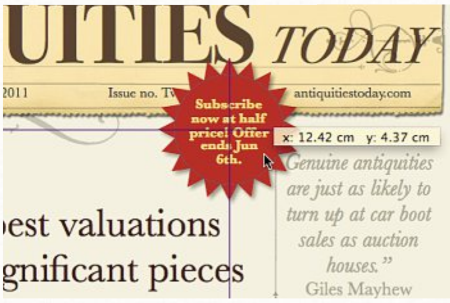
Update Now

☑ Make page numbers links



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Genuine antiquities are just as likely to turn up at car boot sales as auction houses."
Giles Mayhew
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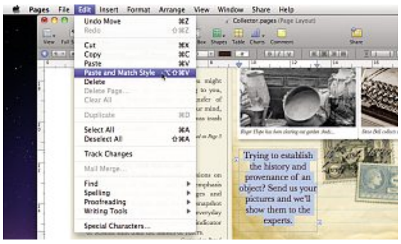
Alignment guides and preferences

02 The automatic Alignment Guides are really useful for lining up any objects you add to your documents and 'snapping' them into position. However, they can sometimes be distracting and get in the way, especially when you're trying to position an object very precisely. But they are easy to get rid of, all you have to do is hold down ⌘ as you drag them and this will temporarily disable them, leaving you to get on with your work.

Paste while preserving formatting

03 Sometimes you'll want to paste in text or numbers from a web page, an email or another document, but the original text formatting (font, size, colour and so on) will be used, which means you may then have to re-style the text. The solution is not to use the usual ⌘+V 'Paste' shortcut, but use ⇧+⌥+⌘+V instead. This matches the new text to the existing style at the insertion point.



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Undo Move ⌘Z
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Paste ⌘V
Paste and Match Style ⌥⇧⌘V
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Duplicate ⌘D
Select All ⌘A
Deselect All ⇧⌘A
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Find
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Writing Tools
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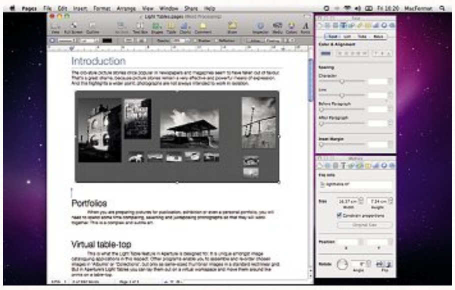
Trying to establish the history and provenance of an object? Send us your pictures and we'll show them to the experts.



Introduction
Portfolios
Virtual table-top

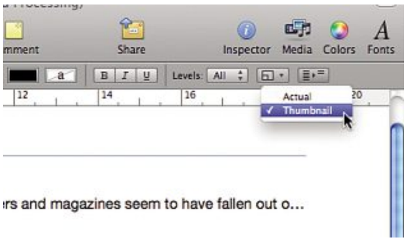
⌥-click tab to bring up multiple inspectors

04 While the Pages Inspector doesn't actually take up that much space on your screen, it does a huge amount of work, and so it can get really tiresome having to continually swap from one tab to another. But if you ⌥-click on a tab icon instead, you'll see that it opens up a brand-new Inspector window.

You'll soon find that having a couple of your most-used Inspectors open at the same time will save a lot of clicking.

Outline mode

05 Outlines are really useful for planning and organising documents, and here's not one but three outlining mini-tips. First, you can save a lot of manual formatting by choosing a suitable Outline Template. Second, there's a button on the toolbar for reducing images to unobtrusive thumbnails. Third, there's another button that curtails long paragraphs into a single line.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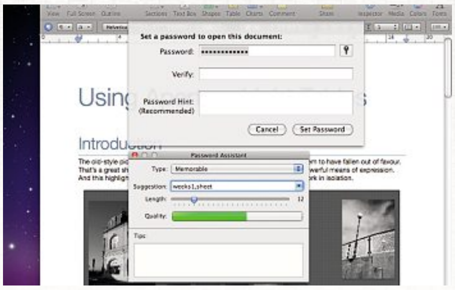
rs and magazines seem to have fallen out o…

Outlines will help you and your docs get sorted.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Verify:

Password Hint: (Recommended)

Type: Memorable

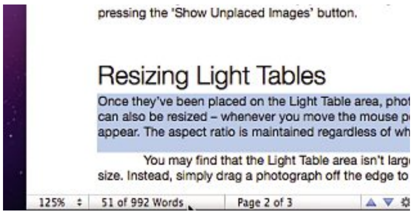
Suggestion: weeks1,sheet

Length: 12

Passwords: ideal for keeping your memoirs private…

Password protection

06 There are lots of reasons why you might want to password-protect your documents, such as you are using a shared computer or you are working with sensitive information. If you take a look at the bottom of the Document Inspector you'll see a 'Require password to open' checkbox. You can choose your own password, or let *Pages* suggest one for you – and you can type in a hint in case you forget your own password. Duh!



pressing the 'Show Unplaced Images' button.

Resizing Light Tables

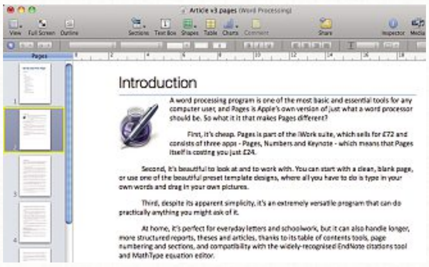
Once they've been placed on the Light Table area, phot can also be resized – whenever you move the mouse p appear. The aspect ratio is maintained regardless of wh

You may find that the Light Table area isn't larg size. Instead, simply drag a photograph off the edge to

125% 51 of 992 Words Page 2 of 3

Word counts

07 If you're asked to write an essay, a report or a magazine article, you're probably going to be given a word count. So how do you know how many you've written? Take a look at the bottom of the window – the status bar shows you how many words there are in the document and, if you select some text, how many there are in the selection too.


Article v3.pages (Word Processing)
Sections
Text Box
Shapes
Table
Charts
Comment
Share
Inspector
Media
Pages

Introduction

A word processing program is one of the most basic and essential tools for any computer user, and Pages is Apple's own version of just what a word processor should be. So what it it that makes Pages different?

First, it's cheap. Pages is part of the iWork suite, which sells for £72 and consists of three apps - Pages, Numbers and Keynote - which means that Pages itself is costing you just £24.

Second, it's beautiful to look at and to work with. You can start with a clean, blank page, or use one of the beautiful preset template designs, where all you have to do is type in your own words and drag in your own pictures.

Third, despite its apparent simplicity, it's an extremely versatile program that can do practically anything you might ask of it.

At home, it's perfect for everyday letters and schoolwork, but it can also handle longer, more structured reports, theses and articles, thanks to its table of contents tools, page numbering and sections, and compatibility with the widely-recognised EndNote citations tool and MathType equation editor.

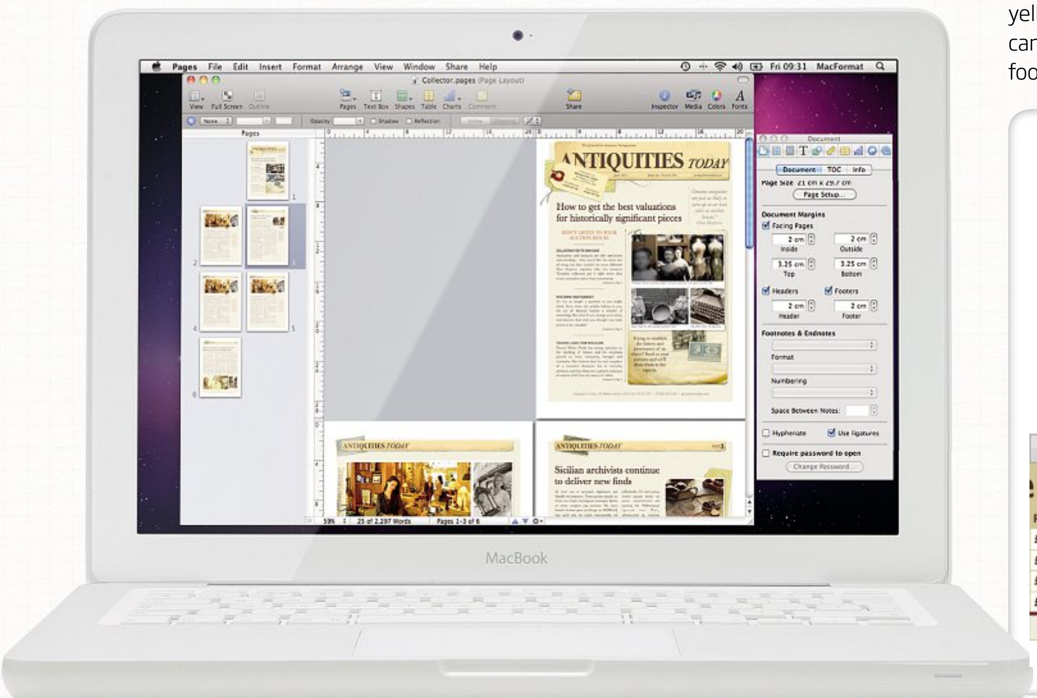
Sections and Word Processing

08 Sections are a great way to split up and logically organise long Word Processing documents and make them manageable. Each section can be moved around in the document by dragging its page thumbnail (outlined in yellow in the page thumbnail panel here). You can use different page numbering, headers and footers and column layouts for each section.

Two Up page display

10 When you're working on Page Layout documents, it can be useful to view facing pages side by side. But don't use the Two Up option on the pop-up page view menu at the bottom left of the screen. This is the wrong way to go about it because it will put the first (front) page of the document on the left and the first inside page on the right, and all the pages will be out of sync. Instead, click the 'Facing Pages' box in the Document Inspector. This will put the first page on the right and will display page thumbnails as 'spreads'.

Don't get your pages in a twist - click 'Facing Pages' to see your spreads properly.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☑ Facing Pages
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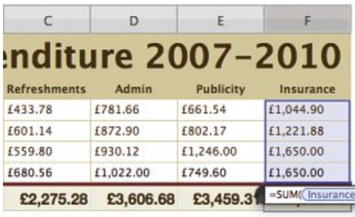
☑ Headers
☑ Footers
Footnotes & Endnotes
Format
Numbering
Space Between Notes:
☐ Hyphenate
☑ Use ligatures
☐ Require password to open
Change Password
Pages 1-3 of 6
MacBook

Tables can be spreadsheets

09 The tables you add needn't just be boxes with words in. They can be used as mini-spreadsheets too, thanks to the functions in the Table Inspector. Format cells to contain dates or currency values, for example, and add a footer row to total up a column of figures.



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£680.56	£1,022.00	£749.60	£1,650.00
£2,275.28	£3,606.68	£3,459.3	=SUM(Insurance)

Sharing documents

With Pages, sharing goes way beyond just swapping files…

Even though *Pages* is a Mac-specific program, it's easy to share your documents with other people - and to open and work with the documents they send you.

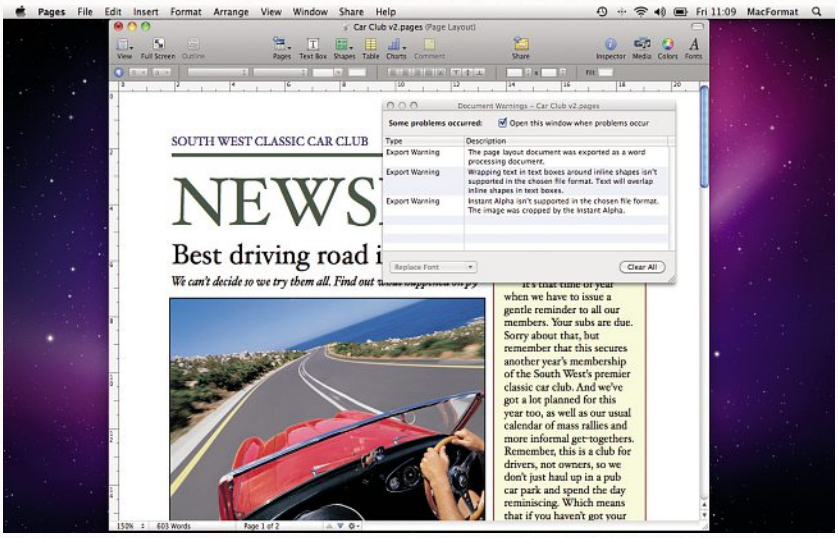
Microsoft Word is the most commonly used word processor across all platforms, and you can open *Word* files directly in *Pages* simply by dragging their icons on to the *Pages* application icon.

Once the *Word* document is open in *Pages*, you can work on it as normal. Then, when you come to save it, *Pages* will create a new file in the *Pages* format. If you want to create a *Word* file instead, use the Save As command, then click the Save Copy As box. You'll now be able to save a copy of the file in *Word* format.

The *Microsoft Word* format is used very widely, but not everyone will be able to open *Word* files. There are other standardised file formats you can use, though, which can be read by any text-editing application, via the Share > Export command. The most basic is the Plain Text option, but the RTF format (Rich Text Formatting) is better because it preserves font sizes and colours.

Word up

The thing to remember about *Word/Pages* conversions is that they may not be perfect. *Pages* and *Word* might offer a similar set of features and tools, but they go about things in a very different way. Text documents are no problem, and basic layouts and graphics transfer pretty well too. But the more complex the document, the more you'll need to check that the conversion has gone as predicted. Rotated text boxes and headers and footers may not translate properly into the *Word* format, for example, but *Pages* will warn you.



Document Warnings – Car Club v2.pages

Some problems occurred: ☑ Open this window when problems occur

Type	Description
Export Warning	The page layout document was exported as a word processing document.
Export Warning	Wrapping text in text boxes around inline shapes isn't supported in the chosen file format. Text will overlap inline shapes in text boxes.
Export Warning	Instant Alpha isn't supported in the chosen file format. The image was cropped by the Instant Alpha.

Replace Font
Clear All

SOUTH WEST CLASSIC CAR CLUB

NEWS

Best driving road i

We can't decide so we try them all. Find out

It's that time of year when we have to issue a gentle reminder to all our members. Your subs are due. Sorry about that, but remember that this secures another year's membership of the South West's premier classic car club. And we've got a lot planned for this year too, as well as our usual calendar of mass rallies and more informal get-togethers. Remember, this is a club for drivers, not owners, so we don't just haul up in a pub car park and spend the day reminiscing. Which means that if you haven't got your

Word Processing documents will convert well into Microsoft Word documents and back again.

»QUICK TIP

Instead of creating a PDF of a Mac document via Print, use the Share menu instead, and you can choose the PDF-quality level and introduce password controls.

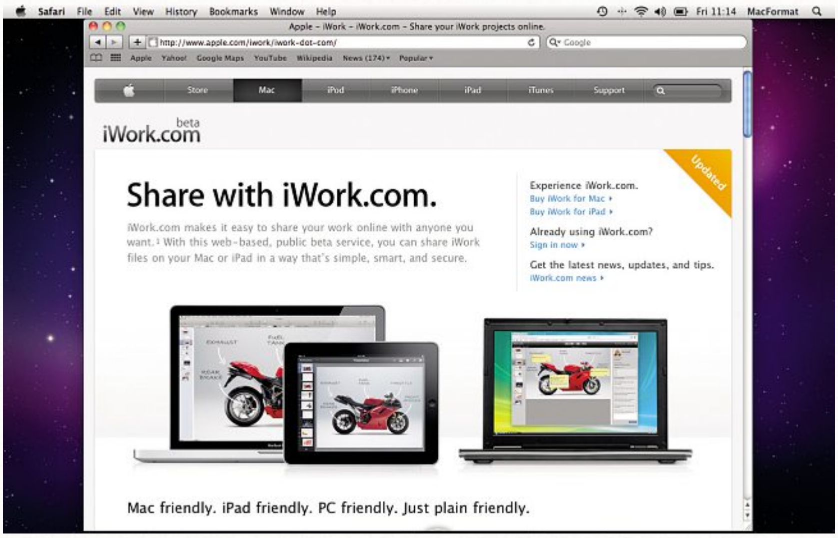
The other option is to export a PDF file. This is perfect when you want to preserve the document's formatting and when you want it to be accessible to the widest number of people. The disadvantage of PDF files is that other people can only read them and not edit them, but then that can be an advantage if you're just disseminating information. PDFs are ideal for manuals, leaflets, reports or any other kind of published information.

The usual way of sharing files would be to put them on a USB stick, perhaps, or – more likely – email them. Or, to make a document available online, use Send to iWeb instead. *Pages* will launch *iWeb*, prompt you to choose the site you want to publish to and then embed the document as a thumbnail link in a page or blog post.

Spread the word

Those are conventional ways of sharing documents, but there's another, much more interesting route. You'll see that the Share menu also has a Share via iWork.com option, and that there's a Share button on the main toolbar, too. iWork.com is a file sharing and collaboration site launched by Apple back at the start of 2009 as a public beta. That's still its status right now, but Apple's clearly sufficiently confident in it to add it as an option within the *Pages* interface. It's free at the moment, but it may become a pay-to-use service eventually. You do also need *iWork '09* to use it.

When you share a *Pages* document via *iWork*, you send out invitations to the people you want to share it with. It doesn't matter whether they have a Mac or a PC, or whether they use *iWork* or not – they'll be able to view your document, add comments or even, subject to the access you allow, download a version in a format to suit them



Share with iWork.com.

iWork.com makes it easy to share your work online with anyone you want.¹ With this web-based, public beta service, you can share iWork files on your Mac or iPad in a way that's simple, smart, and secure.

Experience iWork.com.
Buy iWork for Mac ›
Buy iWork for iPad ›

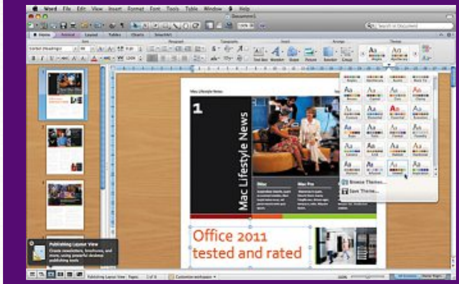
Already using iWork.com?
Sign in now ›

Get the latest news, updates, and tips.
iWork.com news ›

Mac friendly. iPad friendly. PC friendly. Just plain friendly.

iWork.com is still in its beta phase, but it has lots of promise. Use it to share your docs with others.

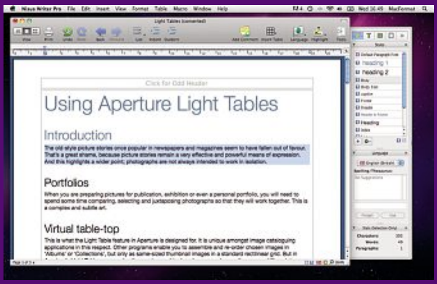
» ALTERNATIVE WORD PROCESSORS / What else is out there



Microsoft Word 2011

£120 (depending on bundle)
www.microsoft.com/mac

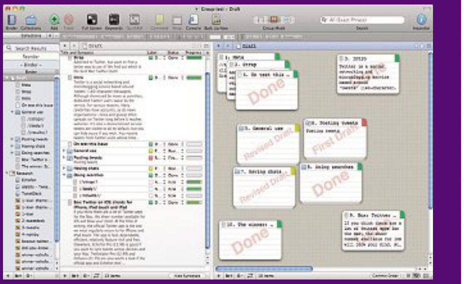
Word continues to be the world's most widely used professional word processor, and it's very good, though the emphasis is more on word processing than layout. The 2011 version is much quicker than its predecessor, though not entirely bug-free. *Word's* big advantage, of course, is its file compatibility with the PC version, though *Pages*-*Word* conversions often work out pretty well too.



Nisus Writer Pro 1.4

£48 www.nisus.com

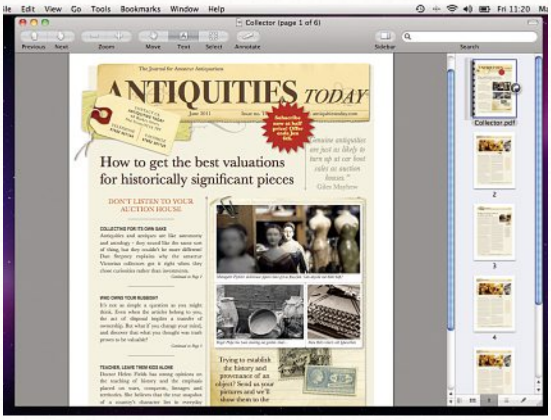
Although, at first glance, *Word* might be considered *Pages'* greatest rival, *Nisus Writer Pro* actually makes a far better case. It's more Mac-like than *Word*, and it's clean, intuitive and powerful. It's also a great tool for professional authors and for anyone working on long documents, where they need to provide a table of contents, index and cross-referencing tools, as well as *Pages*-like comments and change-tracking.



Scrivener 2.0

£30 www.literatureandlatte.com

Where *Word* and *Pages* combine text editing and page layout, *Scrivener* works parallel to the creative mind and concentrates wholly on the authoring process, offering unmatched tools for assembling research materials and organising your ideas. It's specialised and technical, but for those who need to build long, complex documents and don't mind trying a different approach, it will soon repay the effort that is required to learn it.


Collector (page 1 of 6)
ANTIQUITIES TODAY
How to get the best valuations for historically significant pieces

PDFs are the ideal format when you want a pixel-perfect rendition of your file that anyone can open.

This is one of *Pages'* less obvious strengths – its collaboration tools. iWork.com is just one way of exploiting them, but it's also possible to circulate your documents in the usual way, via email or a network, and use *Pages'* change tracking tools to get comments and revisions from your co-workers and then integrate them into the final document.

Comment on it

To add a comment to a document of your own or anyone else's, select the object or text you want to comment on and click the Comment button on the main toolbar.

Two things happen. The first is that *Pages* opens a Comments panel to the left of the document window. The second is that it adds a yellow comment box alongside the text or object and linked to it by a yellow line.

Each time you add a comment, your user name (your account name on your Mac) is added together with the date and time. You can type over this, or leave it and start typing on the line below. This line will identify who made the comment and when, and it's particularly useful when you're collaborating with other people.

But *Pages* can also do 'Track Changes', and this is enabled via the Edit menu. Now, every time a change is made in the document, it's highlighted and described in the same panel used for Comments, together with the name of the person who made the change. Changes are colour-coded, so that if you share the file with other people and they make changes, theirs show up in a different colour.

Keep on track

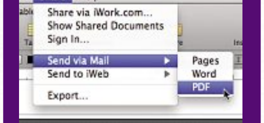
The point about change tracking is that when it's enabled, each change is 'pending'. Using buttons in the change descriptions, you can show or hide the changes and, when you come to produce a final version, accept or reject them. It's a highly effective and straightforward way of collaborating on documents and canvassing the views and expertise of others.

So 'sharing' your *Pages* documents goes far beyond producing a file that others can read, and incorporates publishing and collaboration too.

And this is what makes *Pages* so remarkable. It's not just a novice-friendly word processor for people who don't have *Microsoft Word*. It's a powerful and intuitive tool for writers, designers, academics and small businesses.

This feature has offered a mere glimpse into some of *Pages'* more interesting and powerful features, but hopefully it's tempted you to take a closer look for yourself and discover just what it can do for you. ●

» QUICK TIP



EMAIL YOUR DOCS DIRECTLY

If you do want to email a file, don't bother exporting it, opening *Mail*, creating a message and then adding the file as an attachment. Instead, use the Share > Send via Mail command instead. This does the whole thing for you, and even offers you a choice of file formats.

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I want customers to see they can trust my site
I want a blog
I want to create my website without learning web code
I want to design

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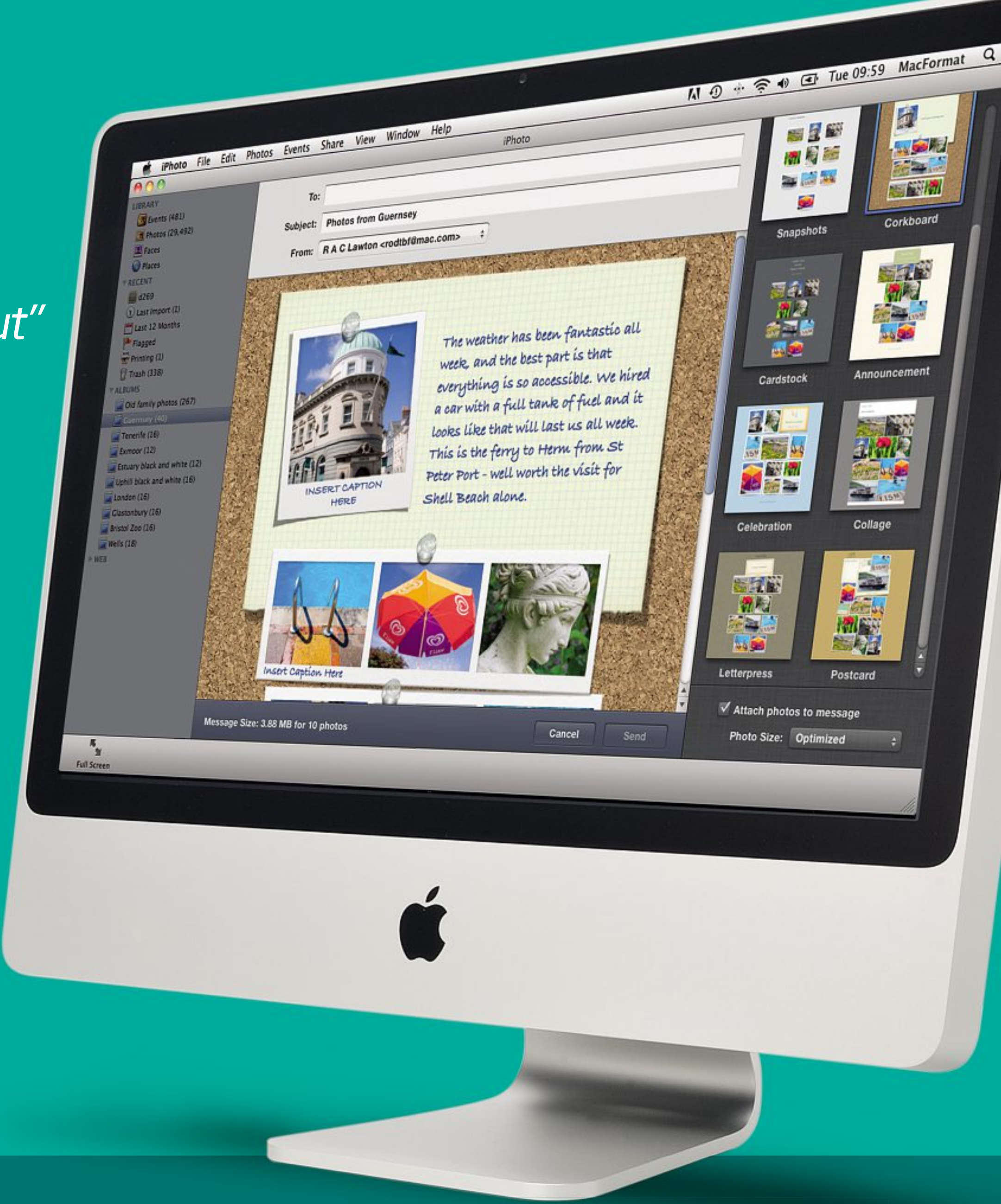
Find out more at: www.123-reg.co.uk

123-reg.co.uk

"So simple, you'll be wondering if you've missed something out"

MAKE USE OF iPHOTO'S EMAIL FUNCTION P46


iPhoto File Edit Photos Events Share View Window Help
Tue 09:59 MacFormat
LIBRARY
Events (481)
Photos (29,492)
Faces
Places
RECENT
d269
Last Import (1)
Last 12 Months
Flagged
Printing (1)
Trash (338)
ALBUMS
Old family photos (267)
Guernsey (40)
Tenerife (16)
Exmoor (12)
Estuary black and white (12)
Uphill black and white (16)
London (16)
Glastonbury (16)
Bristol Zoo (16)
Wells (18)
WEB
Full Screen
INSERT CAPTION HERE
Insert Caption Here
Cancel
Send
Snapshots
Corkboard
Cardstock
Announcement
Celebration
Collage
Letterpress
Postcard

To:

Subject: Photos from Guernsey

From: R A C Lawton <rodtbf@mac.com>

The weather has been fantastic all week, and the best part is that everything is so accessible. We hired a car with a full tank of fuel and it looks like that will last us all week. This is the ferry to Herm from St Peter Port - well worth the visit for Shell Beach alone.

Message Size: 3.88 MB for 10 photos

☑ Attach photos to message

Photo Size: Optimized

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How to...

● PHOTOS ● MOVIES ● MUSIC ● OFFICE ● SYSTEM

Rob Mead-Green
Deputy Editor

The latest versions of *iMovie, iPhoto* and *GarageBand* are packed with handy features that make it easier than ever to get creative – and this month's tutorials will help show you how.

On page 46 you'll discover how easy it is to send your latest, greatest pictures to friends and family using the new email sharing feature in *iPhoto '11*. Meanwhile on page 48 and page 50, you'll find two tutorials dedicated to helping you get more out of *iMovie*: the first shows you how to easily find people in your movie clips and organise; the second tutorial will help you create great *iMovie* voiceovers using *iLife's* other great app, *GarageBand*.

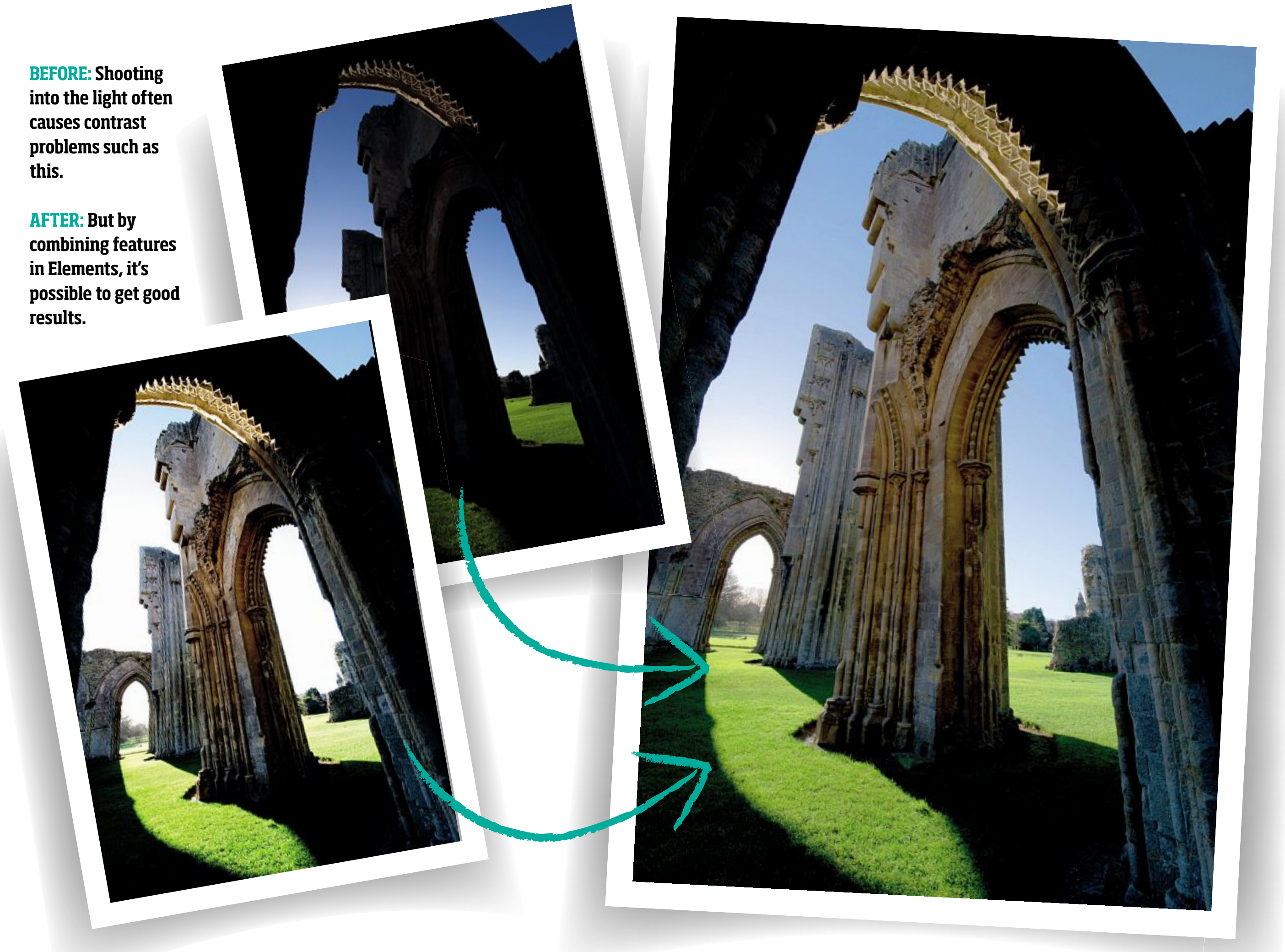
Other great tips and tutorials in this section include a quick look at *BusyCal* - a powerful alternative to *iCal* - on page 58 and how you can use *Adobe Photoshop Elements'* Photomerge Exposure to produce better-looking photos (page 44).

Finally, we'll show you how to make your Mac your own by customising your desktop and *System Preferences* settings (page 64), plus tips on how to get Mac OS X 10.7 Lion features on your Mac before its launch this summer (page 66).

Safari 5
Safari Extensions Gallery

>> DID YOU KNOW?

Web Extensions are a great way to supercharge *Safari's* surfing power, and they're easy to install and update. Go to Safari > Safari Extensions Gallery for more.



BEFORE: Shooting into the light often causes contrast problems such as this.

AFTER: But by combining features in Elements, it's possible to get good results.

Blend exposures in Elements

Preserve highlights and shadows in high-contrast scenes quickly and easily

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 45 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Photoshop Elements 8 or 9

Shooting into the light often produces the most dramatic effects, but it often causes problems with contrast. What happens is that there's so much difference in brightness between the image's highlights and the shadowed areas, that it's impossible to find an exposure that captures both.

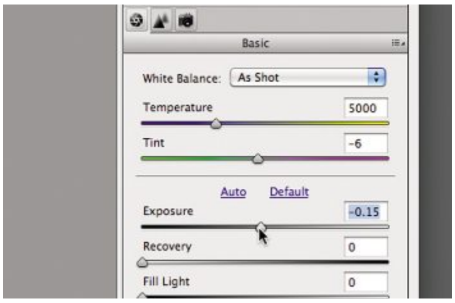
This is the territory of HDR (high dynamic range) tools and effects, of course, but what if it's not a special effect you're after? Sometimes all you want is both the shadows and the highlights preserved, but in a subtle way where the picture still looks natural at the end of it.

There are two steps to getting this right. First, you have to capture the full brightness range of the scene with your camera. You might be able to do it with a single exposure if your camera shoots RAW files, because these contain extra shadow and highlight detail which you can recover in *Adobe Camera Raw* – that's the approach we've used here. The alternative is to shoot a series of different exposures, and for this the auto-exposure bracketing function found on many cameras is ideal. But it's a good idea to use a tripod to avoid any alignment problems later. The second step is to find a way to merge these different exposures. *Photoshop Elements* doesn't have the HDR tools you get in *Photoshop*, but that's not what's needed here. What it does have is its rather neat Photomerge Exposure option, which blends different exposures in a much more photo-realistic way.

> *"Sometimes all you want is shadows and highlights preserved, but in a subtle way so it still looks natural"*

The walkthrough shows how this works, as well as the different operating modes available, from Simple Blending, through Smart Blending to Manual blending. The more sophisticated the blending mode, the harder it can be to get good results. What you may need to do is try all three. Let's give it a go... **Rod Lawton**

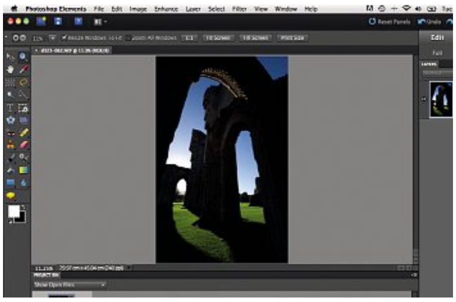
HOW TO / Use the Photomerge Exposure option


Basic
Auto
Default

White Balance: As Shot
Temperature 5000
Tint -6
Exposure -0.15
Recovery 0
Fill Light 0

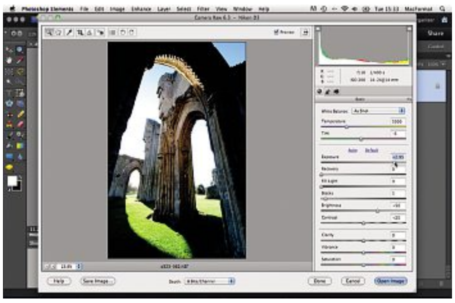
01 The 'highlights' image

If you're using a single RAW image for the first shot, adjust the **Exposure** slider in *Adobe Camera Raw* so that the highlights are preserved. In this instance, a value of -0.15 is just about right. RAW files generally have 1.0-1.5EV of extra highlight detail available.



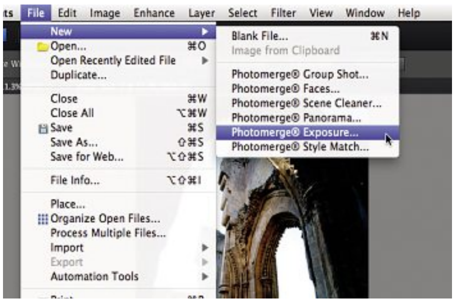
02 Check the Project Bin

If you open the image once you've done this, it should appear in the **Project Bin**. This is the first of the images that are going to be merged. What's needed is another version of the photo, but this time with the **Exposure** adjusted so that the shadows are brought out.



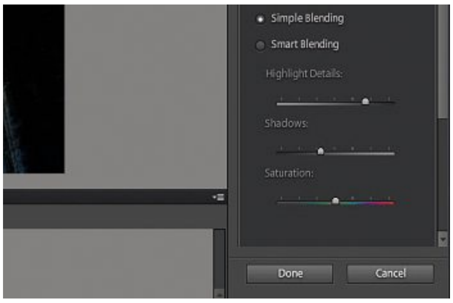
03 The 'shadows' image

If you took a series of exposures, this is where you open the next image. But if you're working from a single RAW file, you can simply re-open the file and change the settings. This time the **Exposure** slider has been pushed right up to +2.95 to bring out all the shadow detail.


File
Edit
Image
Enhance
Layer
Select
Filter
View
Window
Help
New
Open... ⌘O
Open Recently Edited File
Duplicate...
Close ⌘W
Close All ⌥⌘W
Save ⌘S
Save As... ⇧⌘S
Save for Web... ⌥⇧⌘S
File Info... ⌥⇧⌘I
Place...
Organize Open Files...
Process Multiple Files...
Import
Export
Automation Tools
Blank File... ⌘N
Image from Clipboard
Photomerge® Group Shot...
Photomerge® Faces...
Photomerge® Scene Cleaner...
Photomerge® Panorama...
Photomerge® Exposure...
Photomerge® Style Match...

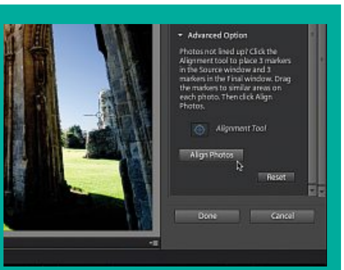
04 Photomerge Exposure

This new version is added to the **Project Bin** alongside the first version. Now use the File > New > Photomerge Exposure command. You'll be prompted to select the files to merge. **Photomerge** will then merge the images and display a set of merging tools.


Simple Blending
Smart Blending
Highlight Details:
Shadows:
Saturation:
Done
Cancel

05 Simple Blending

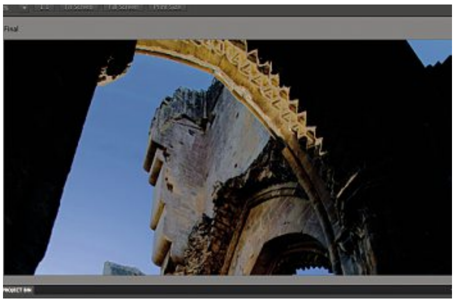
These are split into **Automatic** and **Manual** tools (see the panel on the right); the **Automatic** tab offers **Simple Blending** and **Smart Blending**, which you select using the radio buttons. **Simple Blending** has no manual adjustments, but produces effective results.


Advanced Option
Alignment Tool
Align Photos
Reset
Done
Cancel

Photos not lined up? Click the Alignment tool to place 3 markers in the Source window and 3 markers in the Final window. Drag the markers to similar areas on each photo. Then click Align Photos.

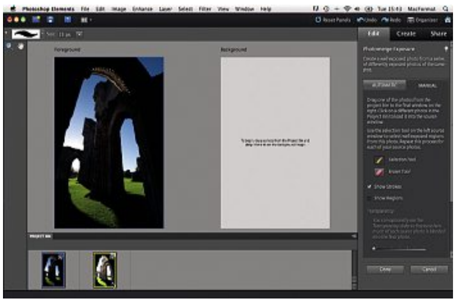
QUICK TIP

If you're working with a series of separate shots that don't line up, align them using the **Advanced Option** in the **Manual** tab. Place three crosshairs on key points in the foreground image, then mimic these on the background image.



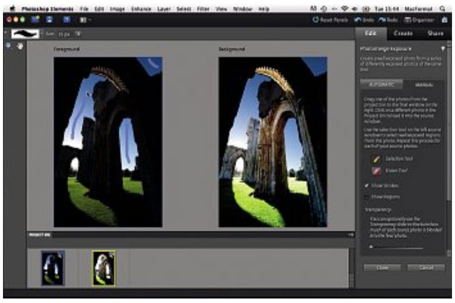
06 Smart Blending

If you choose **Smart Blending**, the **Highlight Details**, **Shadows** and **Saturation** sliders below are enabled. You can use the first two to adjust the strength of the shadows and highlights, but if you're not careful you can produce 'flat' areas where they overlap.



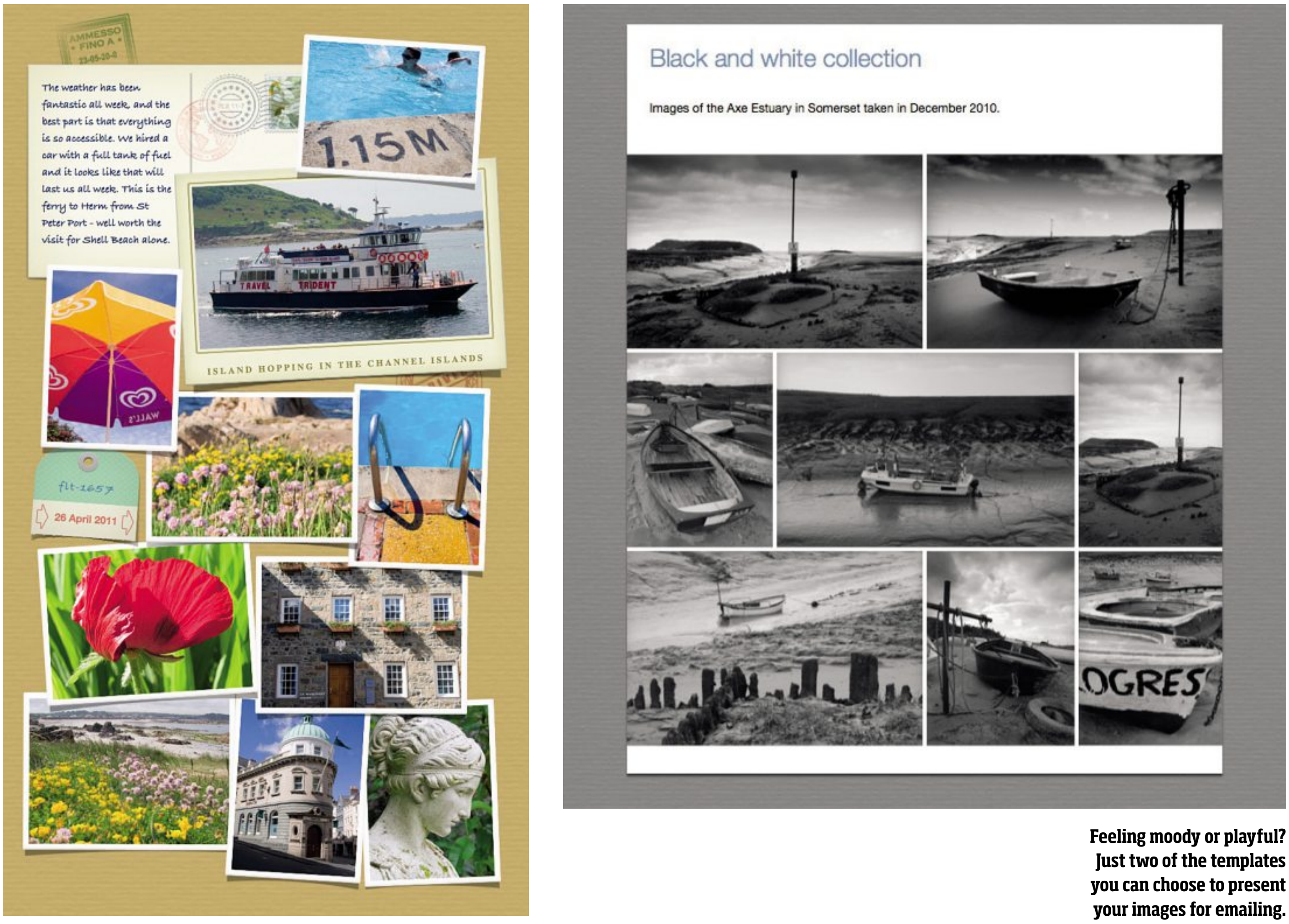
07 Manual merging

The **Manual** tab offers more control, but it merges images in a different way, and one that's actually quite crude by comparison. You start with a foreground image in the left-hand pane, then choose a background one in the **Project Bin** and drag it to the panel on the right.



08 Marking selections

Use the **Selection Tool** to mark out areas on the foreground image that you want to preserve. It can work well, but if an area you want to preserve is too similar in tone to one you don't, you may not be able to find a way round it with the limited tools available. ●



The weather has been fantastic all week, and the best part is that everything is so accessible. We hired a car with a full tank of fuel and it looks like that will last us all week. This is the ferry to Herm from St Peter Port - well worth the visit for Shell Beach alone.

ISLAND HOPPING IN THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

Black and white collection

Images of the Axe Estuary in Somerset taken in December 2010.

Feeling moody or playful? Just two of the templates you can choose to present your images for emailing.

Email images using iPhoto

With iPhoto '11, fantastic-looking emails are mere moments away

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 10 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: iPhoto '11

Why send a bunch of attachments when you can send a gloriously formatted mini-gallery, postcard or greeting card instead? Thanks to the new email templates in *iPhoto '11* and its new built-in email client, it's so simple, you'll be left wondering if you've missed something out.

Well, you haven't. It really is as simple as it looks. Sending laid-out documents to other people is usually a minefield because you have to worry about file formats, font substitution and so on, but *iPhoto* gets round this by converting your email layouts into simple JPEGs. And when you think about it, what else do you need? Not only that, the original photos are attached in a zip file, so if they are needed at full resolution, they are available.

Using JPEGs means that anyone, anywhere will be able to view your emails, provided they set up their email client to display images. They don't need *Apple Mail* or even a Mac.

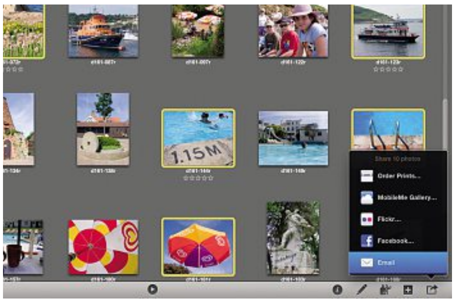
What's more, you don't have to use *Apple Mail* as your email client when you prepare your emails. *iPhoto* does get the account information used for sending emails from *Mail*, but all you need to do is check your accounts have been set up in *Mail* first – it doesn't open *Mail* to create the designs. So if you're a Gmail fan, say, it's not a problem, and you don't have to swap to *Apple Mail* just for this.

> *"Sending laid-out documents to others is a minefield because you have to worry about file formats"*

As we've come to expect from Apple's lifestyle apps, a few compromises have been made for the sake of simplicity. You're restricted to the included templates and there are no options for redesigning them. You can change the text and choose where the pictures go, but that's it. The payback is a simple system for designing lush-looking emails. *iPhoto '11's* email templates feature doesn't do much, but what it does do, it does brilliantly.

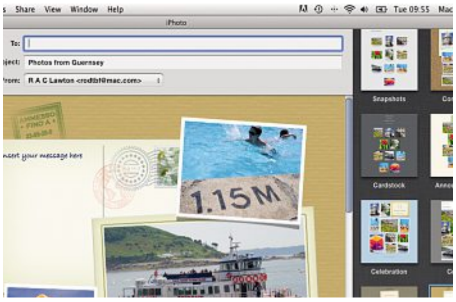
Rod Lawton

HOW TO / Present photos to email



01 Selecting and sharing

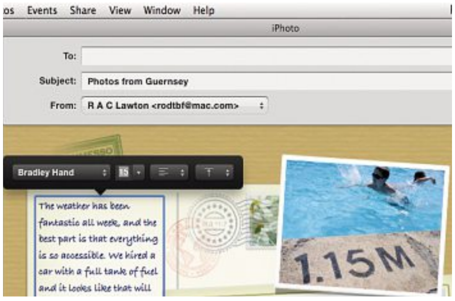
Select the photos you want to email, by creating an album or by ⌘-clicking on individual photos within an album or event. Decide carefully, though, because you can't add, remove or change the photos later. Click the **Share** menu and choose the **Email** command.



Subject: Photos from Guernsey
From: R A C Lawton <rodtbf@mac.com>

02 Choose a template

iPhoto will now create an email layout using one of its preset email templates and populate it with your chosen pictures. The layout is adjusted according to the number of images, and if it supports different orientations, it will choose the right one for each picture.

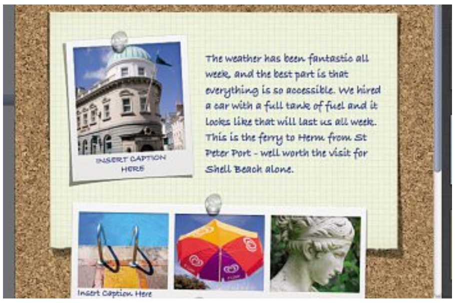


To:
Subject: Photos from Guernsey
From: R A C Lawton <rodtbf@mac.com>

The weather has been fantastic all week, and the best part is that everything is so accessible. We hired a car with a full tank of fuel and it looks like that will

03 Adding text

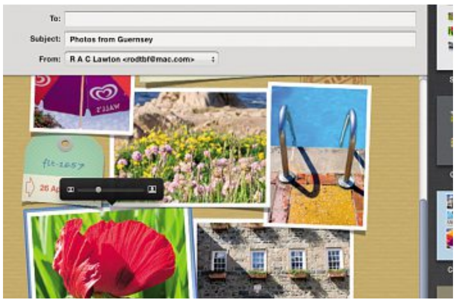
These templates are designed for messages as well as photos, and in the **Postcard** template there's space for a postcard-style message. *iPhoto* displays formatting tools above the box as you type and displays a warning if the text overruns.



The weather has been fantastic all week, and the best part is that everything is so accessible. We hired a car with a full tank of fuel and it looks like that will last us all week. This is the ferry to Herm from St Peter Port – well worth the visit for Shell Beach alone.

04 Text placeholders

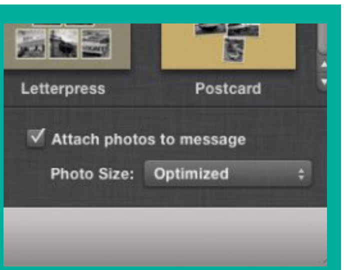
The text placeholders are not the same across all templates. If you swap from **Postcard** to **Corkboard** design, for example, you'll see your postcard message is used, but there are extra spaces for captions. The placeholders reflect the type of email you're sending.



To:
Subject: Photos from Guernsey
From: R A C Lawton <rodtbf@mac.com>

05 Resizing and cropping

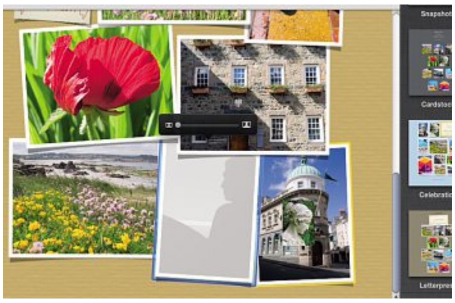
You can't edit pictures once they've been added to the template, but you can change their size by using the zoom slider, which appears when you click a photo. If you magnify them, you can drag them around within the frame to reposition them.



☑ Attach photos to message
Photo Size: Optimized

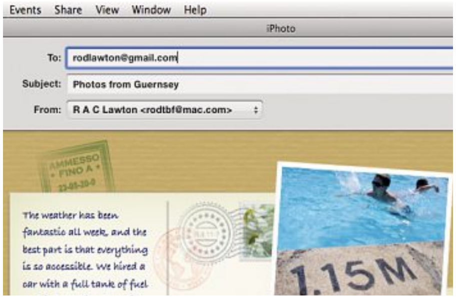
QUICK TIP

When the layouts are converted for emailing, the original photos are attached too. This makes the message much larger, so if you don't need the original images, uncheck the **Attach photos to message box** on the templates panel.



06 Swapping photos

If you don't like where the photos have been put, drag it out of its frame. It turns into a thumbnail and the mouse pointer changes to a 'swap' symbol. Now drop the photo onto its new frame – the photo that's there at the moment will then be swapped back to the empty frame.

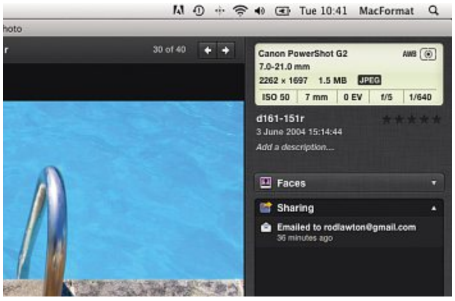


To: rodlawton@gmail.com
Subject: Photos from Guernsey
From: R A C Lawton <rodtbf@mac.com>

The weather has been fantastic all week, and the best part is that everything is so accessible. We hired a car with a full tank of fuel

07 Email details

When you've finished, type in the address details at the top of the window. *iPhoto* will use the album name as the basis for the message title, so all you need to do is type in an addressee. If you have more than one account in *Mail*, you can choose which one to send from.

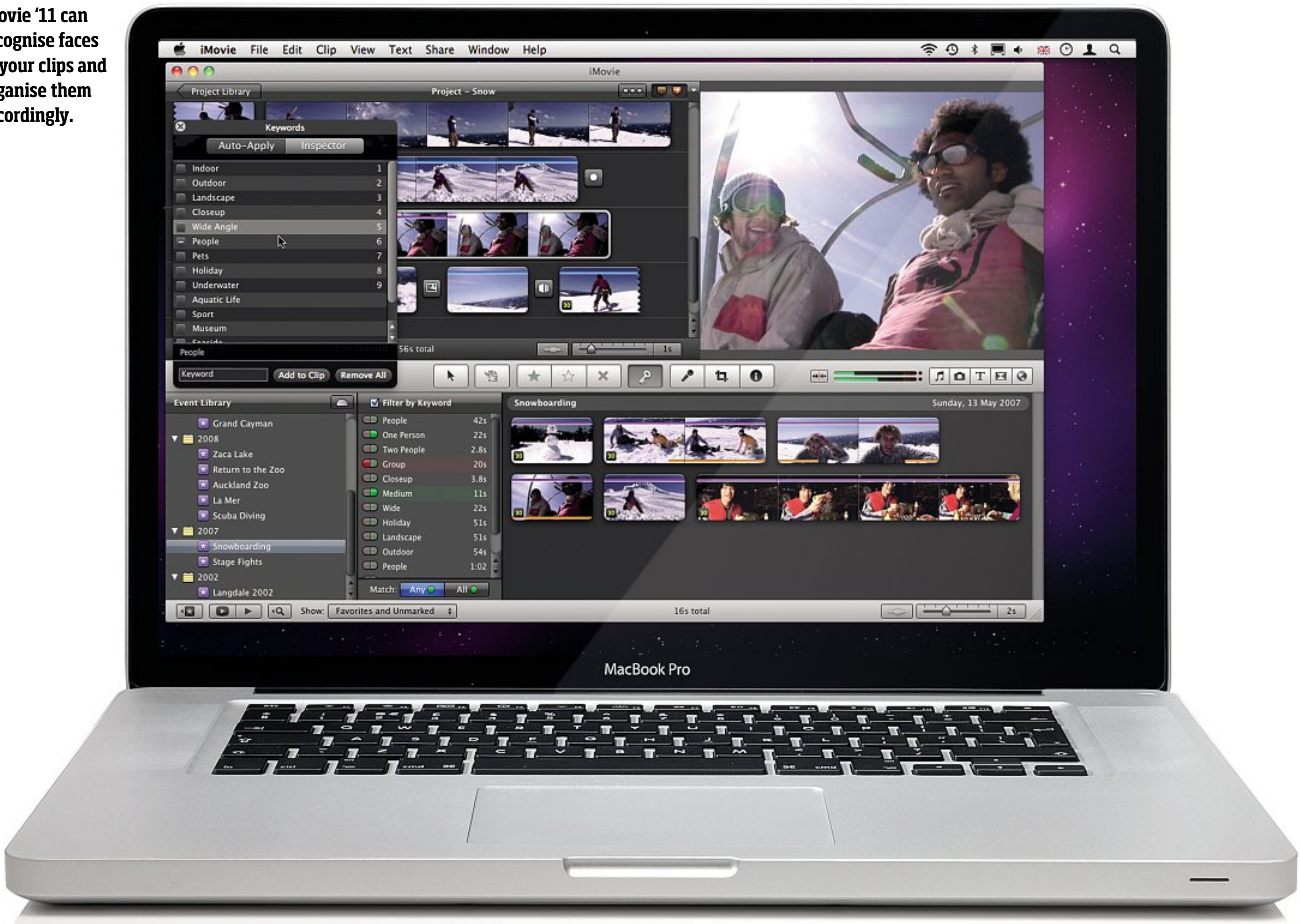


Canon PowerShot G2
7.0-21.0 mm
2262 x 1697 1.5 MB JPEG
ISO 50 7 mm 0 EV f/5 1/640
d161-151r
3 June 2004 15:14:44
Add a description...
Emailed to rodlawton@gmail.com
36 minutes ago

08 Re-opening emails

iPhoto doesn't save your filled-in email templates in the normal sense – you won't see them displayed in the **Source** panel. But they're not lost for good. If you select any photo you've emailed and display the **Info** panel, the email will be displayed in the **Sharing** section. ●

iMovie '11 can recognise faces in your clips and organise them accordingly.


iMovie
File
Edit
Clip
View
Text
Share
Window
Help
Project Library
Project – Snow
Keywords
Auto-Apply
Inspector
Indoor
Outdoor
Landscape
Closeup
Wide Angle
People
Pets
Holiday
Underwater
Aquatic Life
Sport
Museum
Keyword
Add to Clip
Remove All
Event Library
Grand Cayman
2008
Zaca Lake
Return to the Zoo
Auckland Zoo
La Mer
Scuba Diving
2007
Snowboarding
Stage Fights
2002
Langdale 2002
Filter by Keyword
One Person
Two People
Group
Medium
Wide
Match:
Any
All
Sunday, 13 May 2007
Show:
Favorites and Unmarked
16s total
56s total
MacBook Pro

Quickly find clips of people

iMovie '11 can now tell if you've been filming people or scenery

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 25 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
iMovie '11 version 9.0.2 or better, clips stored in Events or your iPhoto or Aperture library, a basic grasp of the interface

Along with the usual refinements to its existing tools, *iMovie '11* brought a lot of new features to Apple's video editing program. One of these is the ability to automatically create a trailer for you out of the footage you took, complete with a film production logo and vibrant musical score.

We covered this process in detail back in *MF229*, but if this whole trailer-making idea didn't appeal, you may be interested to know that all this technology isn't bound to that feature: you can actually make use of it, like people recognition, to help you edit your short film more easily.

With it, *iMovie* can analyse your clips and find those containing one, two or more people. It's even clever enough to realise if the clip is a wide shot (you can see most of the people's bodies), a medium shot (where you usually only see the upper body) or close up (head and shoulders, or just the face).

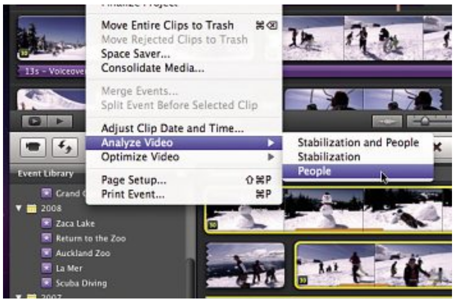
Sadly, this tool isn't as clever as Faces in *iPhoto*, which is capable of recognising individual people. *iMovie* can't tell the difference between baby Jack, great Aunt Sarah and Uncle Michael, but it's a great tool to help you wade through dozens of clips. Once properly configured, you can use it to eliminate from your search any clip that doesn't conform to what you need: if you want to just find landscape shots, for instance, you can remove clips with people in them from your search.

> *"With iMovie '11 you can analyse your clips and find those containing one, two or more people"*

Ironically, for a feature that's designed to make your editing quicker and easier, even though you can analyse your footage at any time, you can't make full use of the results unless you turn on *iMovie's* Advanced Tools.

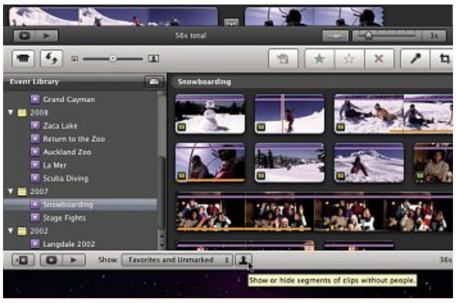
This tutorial is designed to show you how to do this and prepare your clips for the process, so launch *iMovie '11* and let's get started.
Steve Paris

HOW TO / Organise your clips using the People feature


Move Entire Clips to Trash
Move Rejected Clips to Trash
Space Saver...
Consolidate Media...
Merge Events...
Split Event Before Selected Clip
Adjust Clip Date and Time...
Analyze Video
Optimize Video
Page Setup...
Print Event...
Stabilization and People
Stabilization
People

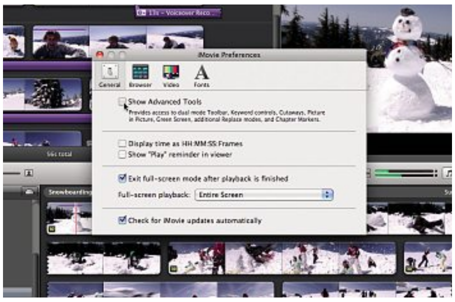
01 Analyse your video

Select a clip and go to File > Analyse Video. You'll notice that the **People** option is greyed out. Highlight multiple clips (by clicking on the first and ⌘-clicking on the others) to enable this feature. The process also works for an Event or even your entire *iPhoto* library.


Show or hide segments of clips without people.

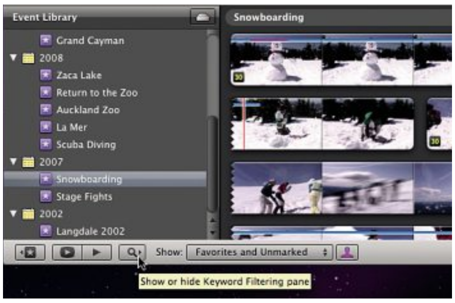
02 The silhouette button

See the icon near the bottom left of the interface bearing a purple silhouette? Click it to remove clips that only have scenery, or those that haven't yet been analysed. That way you can focus on shots with people in them, though you may need more control over your search…


iMovie Preferences
General
Browser
Video
Fonts
Show Advanced Tools
Display time as HH:MM:SS:Frames
Show "Play" reminder in viewer
Exit full-screen mode after playback is finished
Full-screen playback: Entire Screen
Check for iMovie updates automatically

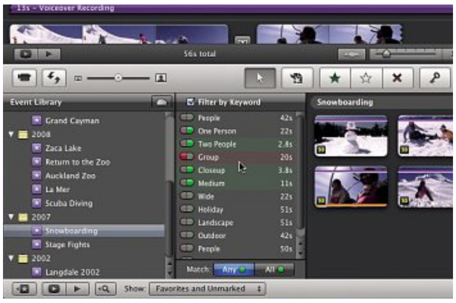
03 Trigger Advanced Tools

To achieve this, you need to turn on the advanced features. Bring up the **Preferences** window either by going to iMovie > Preferences or by using the ⌘-comma keyboard shortcut. Select the **General** tab and make sure the **Show Advanced Tools** box is ticked.


Show or hide Keyword Filtering pane

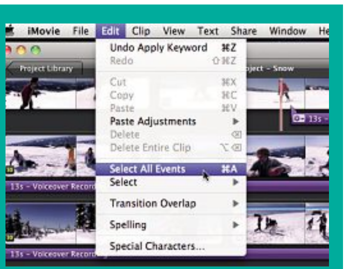
04 The keywords section

This reveals a series of new buttons. You can now add chapter markers or a comment to your project, or label clips with keywords. Analysing clips adds keywords to them, so you can now narrow down a search with their help. Click on the magnifying glass icon, bottom left.


Filter by Keyword
People
One Person
Two People
Group
Closeup
Medium
Wide
Holiday
Landscape
Outdoor
People
Match: Any All

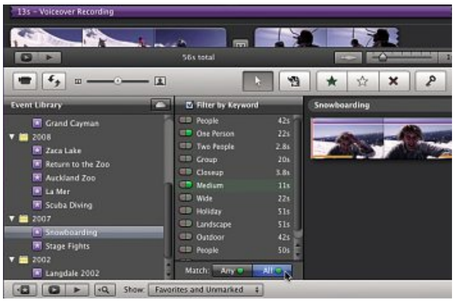
05 Keyword selection

Each keyword has a bi-coloured button to its left. Click the red side to leave out clips with that keyword, click the green side to include them. Make multiple selections to narrow down search criteria; the **People** keyword has the same effect as the silhouette button (step 2).


iMovie File Edit Clip View Text Share Window
Undo Apply Keyword
Redo
Cut
Copy
Paste
Paste Adjustments
Delete
Delete Entire Clip
Select All Events
Select
Transition Overlap
Spelling
Special Characters...

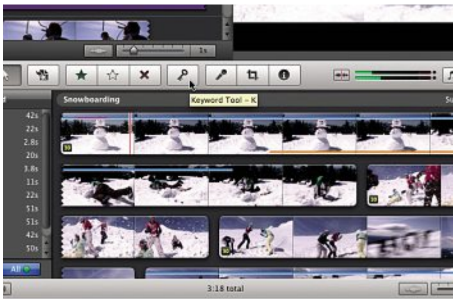
QUICK TIP

To analyse all your clips in one go, select all your Events. To do this, click on the first one and ⇧-click on the last, or use a command from the menu bar by going to Edit > Select All Events (also triggered with the ⌘-A keyboard shortcut).


Filter by Keyword
Match: Any All

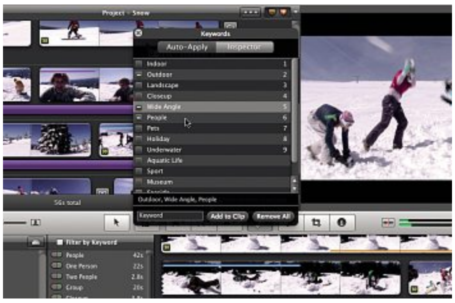
06 Match Any or All

The **Match** buttons help you narrow down your search further: if you choose **Any**, you'll see any clip that contains at least one of the keywords you selected. However, choose **All** instead, and *iMovie* will look for only the clips that have all the keywords you've chosen.


Keyword Tool - K

07 Setting keywords

As you're working with pre-configured keywords, you might like to further improve your future searches by adding additional keywords to selected clips. To do this, click on the icon bearing a key in the **Toolbar**, between the voice-over and the favourites icons.


Keywords
Auto-Apply
Inspector
Add to Clip
Remove All

08 Ticking boxes

Click on that window's **Inspector** tab to see available keywords. Next, select a clip or segment to see a tick appear by the keywords currently used to label it. To change them, tick or untick the boxes. Create new keywords using the text field at the bottom of that window. ●

Create a movie soundtrack

Use GarageBand to make voiceovers for your favourite iMovie projects

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: GarageBand '11, iMovie '11, some video, a Mac with audio input (built-in microphone or external microphone)

Recent revisions to *iMovie* have improved its sound capabilities. In *iMovie '11*, the Inspector panel's Audio tab provides controls that enable ducking (reducing the volume of other tracks, for example to make dialogue stand out over a soundtrack), fading, the reduction of background noise, and equalisation (for boosting or reducing certain frequencies).

If your movie's audio is fine as-is, these tools will be enough. But if you want to take things further – for example, to augment your movie's audio with layered soundtracks or effects, to heavily edit and clean up sounds and volume levels, or to add a voiceover – you should use an audio package that offers greater control.

GarageBand is the audio package of choice if you're an *iMovie* fan. Although typically sold by Apple as a tool for musicians, *GarageBand* is perfectly suited to creating podcasts, and the podcast framework can be used to work on a soundtrack that you can export and later add to your *iMovie* project. Note that while our walkthrough shows the process of creating this audio in the current versions of *iLife* apps, the tips largely work in earlier versions of the suite. If working on dialogue for a voiceover, we also recommend you invest in additional equipment and plan accordingly. Write yourself a script – not necessarily word-for-word, but at least the basic points you want to get across – and practice it alongside your movie. Note at what point you'd like to say certain things.

> *"If you want to take your movie's audio further, use an audio package that offers greater control"*

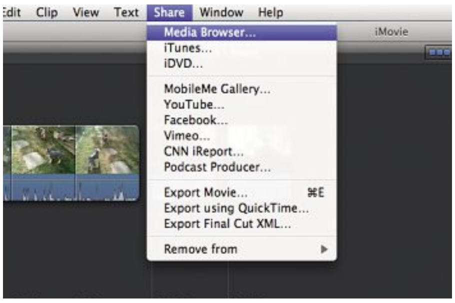
For best results, use an external microphone (not the one in your Mac) and some kind of pop shield, to stop popping and hissing noises being recorded. If you don't have such a shield, try speaking slightly to the side of your microphone, although you may need to increase the input volume when doing so.

Craig Grannell

GarageBand
File
Edit
Track
Control
Share
Window
Help
iMovie
Project Library
Project – Pooch
GarageBand – My movie soundtrack
Tracks
Movie Sound
Male Voice
Female Voice
Jingles
Jingles
Loops
Audio Region
Event Library
Last Import
iPhoto Videos
2009
MacBook

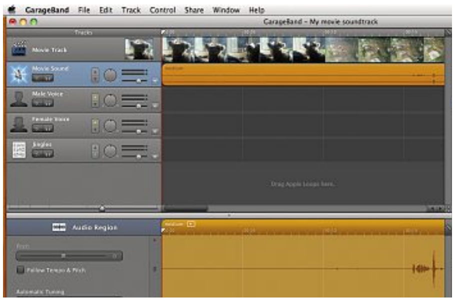
Make your movie sing with GarageBand's audio tools.

HOW TO / Create a voiceover in GarageBand


Edit Clip View Text Share Window Help
iMovie
Media Browser...
iTunes...
iDVD...
MobileMe Gallery...
YouTube...
Facebook...
Vimeo...
CNN iReport...
Podcast Producer...
Export Movie... ⌘E
Export using QuickTime...
Export Final Cut XML...
Remove from

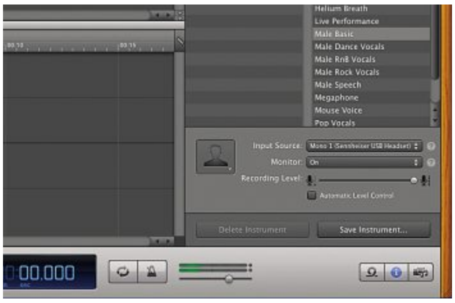
01 Share your movie

In *iMovie*, open the project you want new audio for. If it's not already been shared, go to Share > Media Browser. **Mobile** or **Medium** are fine for previewing footage in *GarageBand*; select one and click **Publish**. Open *GarageBand*, select New Project > Podcast and click **Choose**.


GarageBand File Edit Track Control Share Window Help
GarageBand - My movie soundtrack
Tracks
Movie Track
Movie Sound
Male Voice
Female Voice
Jingles
Drag Apple Loops here.
Audio Region

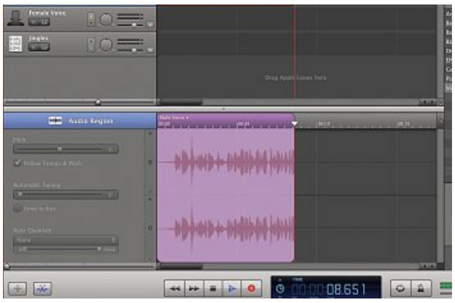
02 Import your movie

Save your *GarageBand* file. Show the **Media Browser** (⌘+R), and click **Movies**. Under *iMovie* will be the project exported in step 1. Drag it to the main workspace. Click **Replace** if you want to replace the **Podcast** track. *GarageBand* will convert your movie.


Helium Breath
Live Performance
Male Basic
Male Dance Vocals
Male RnB Vocals
Male Rock Vocals
Male Speech
Megaphone
Mouse Voice
Pop Vocals
Input Source:
Monitor: On
Recording Level:
Automatic Level Control
Delete Instrument
Save Instrument...
00.000

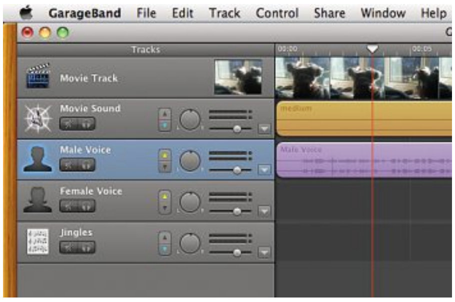
03 Set up vocals

Select one of the vocal tracks, plug in a microphone, then view **Track Info** (⌘+I). Check your input source is correct, set **Monitor** to **On** to hear yourself during recording, and speak a little while adjusting the recording level so it doesn't show red in the track LEDs.


Female Voice
Jingles
Drag Apple Loops here.
Audio Region
Male Voice
00:08.651

04 Record your vocals

Hit record and do a quick test run with a couple of lines of dialogue. Stop recording, double-click the region you recorded and check the peaks aren't being flattened at their maximum levels. If they are, reduce your recording level. If not, record your voiceover.

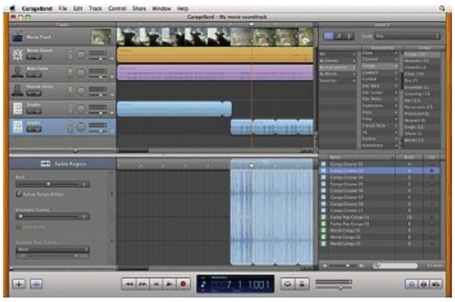

GarageBand File Edit Track Control Share Window Help
Tracks
Movie Track
Movie Sound
Male Voice
Female Voice
Jingles

05 Work with ducking

The up/down arrows on each podcast track prioritise the audio in certain tracks. If you're adding dialogue over your soundtrack, set the voice track to up and the **Movie Sound** track to down. This drops the **Movie Sound** track's volume when the voice track's active.

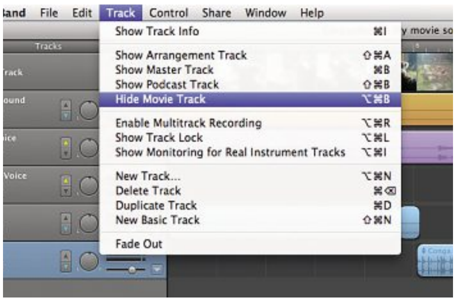
QUICK TIP

Don't start over if you make a mistake while recording dialogue. Instead, position *GarageBand's* playhead at the previous pause and start recording from it. Alternatively, duplicate the voice track and record voiceover across the two tracks.



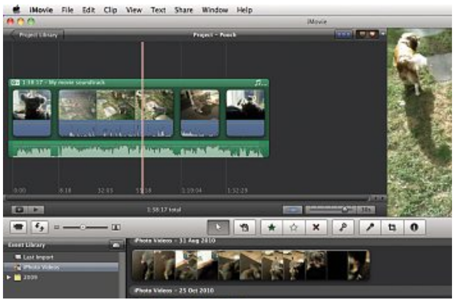
06 Add extras

Because you're working in *GarageBand*, you can add extra sounds. Drag jingles and effects from the podcast sounds section of the **Loop Browser** or add standard musical loops. Alternatively, record software/real instruments. Add effects with the **Track Info** pane's **Edit** tab.


and File Edit Track Control Share Window Help
Tracks
Show Track Info ⌘I
Show Arrangement Track ⇧⌘A
Show Master Track ⌘B
Show Podcast Track ⇧⌘B
Hide Movie Track ⌥⌘B
Enable Multitrack Recording ⌥⌘R
Show Track Lock ⌥⌘L
Show Monitoring for Real Instrument Tracks ⌥⌘I
New Track... ⌥⌘N
Delete Track ⌘⌫
Duplicate Track ⌘D
New Basic Track ⇧⌘N
Fade Out

07 Export your audio

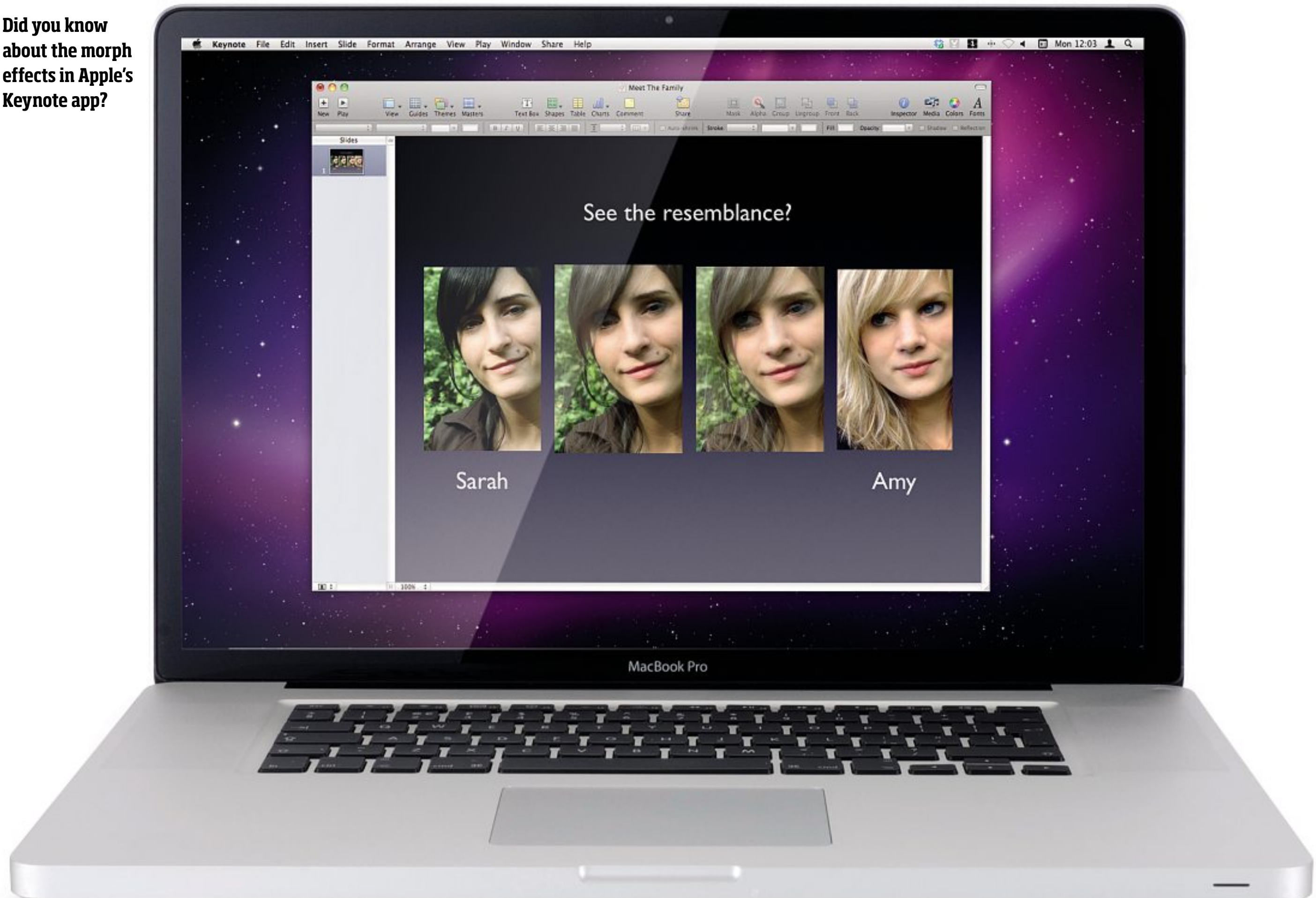
If you go to the **Share** menu, you'll see *iTunes* wants to export a podcast movie, but all you want in *iMovie* is the audio. So go to Track > Hide Movie Track. Now the export options are audio-based – use **Export Song to Disk**; don't check **Compress**, so your audio saves as an AIF.


iMovie File Edit Clip View Text Share Window Help
iMovie
Project Library
Event Library

08 Import your audio

The final step is to bring your audio back into *iMovie*, which you can do by dragging and dropping it into your project. If necessary, ctrl-click your original footage and detach the audio, then delete it. Retain your *GarageBand* file if you later want to edit its components. ●

Did you know about the morph effects in Apple's Keynote app?


Keynote File Edit Insert Slide Format Arrange View Play Window Share Help
Mon 12:03
Meet The Family
Slides
See the resemblance?
Sarah
Amy
MacBook Pro

Use face morphing in Keynote

Don't splash out on software – transform one face into another with Keynote

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY:
Beginner

TIME NEEDED:
20 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
iWork, Mac OS X Leopard or higher

We've all seen those strange effects on TV and in movies where a young person's face magically merges into an older version, a man becomes a woman or a human becomes an animal. You would be forgiven for thinking that this impressive effect requires a seriously powerful application to create. In most cases it does, but the truth is, you can make your own face morph in minutes using the tools available in *Keynote*.

Granted, it's not quite as high-tech an effect as those produced by more expensive software, but using some clever tricks and the **Dissolve** transition you can put together a perfectly acceptable version that will wow your audience.

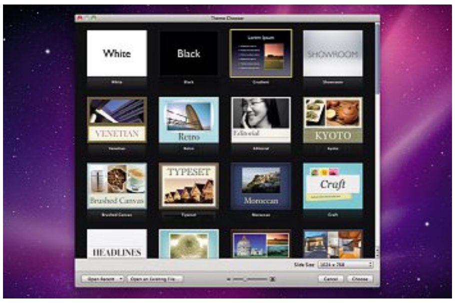
To start with you'll need two fairly similar images. You're not going to be able to accurately morph your friend's face with a frog (unless they really do look like an amphibious creature) so search for shots where the faces are looking in the same direction and the lighting is roughly the same. Obviously, it's unlikely you'll find two perfectly identical poses from two different people, but the closer they are, the better the effect you'll achieve. Staged photos or group shots are usually best, as both subjects will be facing the same way on the same background and in the same light.

> *"We've all seen those strange effects on TV where a young person's face merges into an older version"*

In this tutorial we'll explain how to overlay one image on top of the other so that the transition is as flawless as possible. We'll also show you the best way to align the faces to create a seamless morph. Finally, we'll look at image adjustments you can make to further improve the effect. Once you're done creating the morph you can export it as a movie to share with others or play back the transition from your Mac in *Keynote*. Experimentation is the key here and there's a lot of fun to be had.

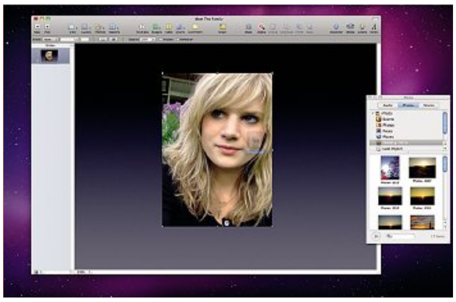
Ben Harvell

HOW TO / Morph from one face to another in Keynote



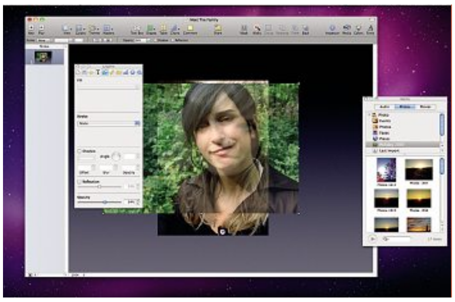
01 Pick a template

Start by selecting a *Keynote* theme from the browser. Pick something simple for your face morph to sit on top of, like this **Gradient** theme. When the theme opens, delete all existing elements from the first slide by selecting them and hitting the ⌦ key.



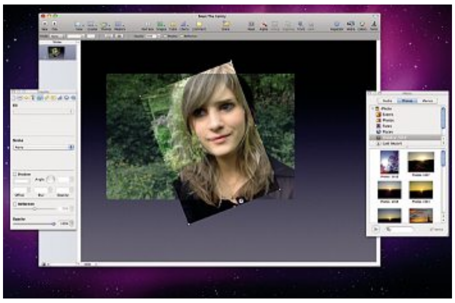
02 Add your image

Drag your first image onto your slide from the **Media Browser** or from a location in the *Finder*. Resize the image by clicking and dragging on the handles at the edge of the image and position it in the centre of your slide using the guides that appear as you move it.



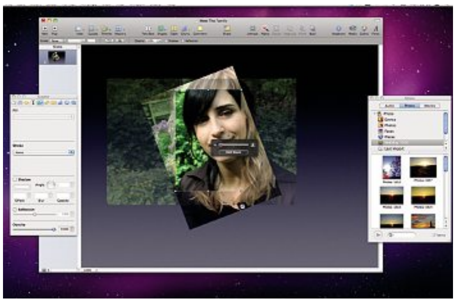
03 Second image

Now add your second image and position it above your first image. Resize it to fit the slide and position it in the same way you did before. From the Inspector, reduce the opacity of the image so you can see the first image through it. Here we've set opacity to 64%.



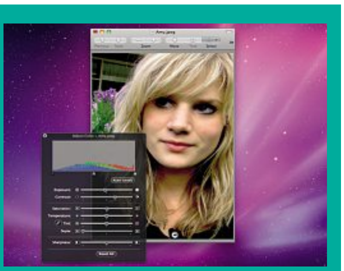
04 Picture positioning

Now resize your images and adjust them so that the facial features match up as closely as possible. Make sure that eyes and noses are positioned over one another and that they are the same size. Hold the ctrl key and drag a handle to rotate an image if need be.



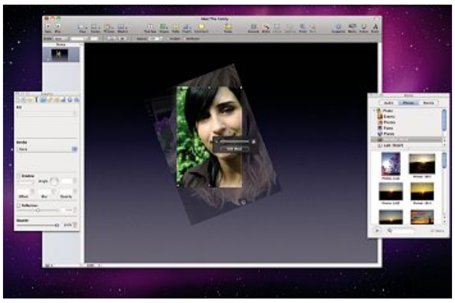
05 Crop the image

Select the second image you added and, from the **Format** menu, select **Mask With Shape** then choose a rectangle. Now drag the mask to cover a space that includes both images and matching facial features. When you're done, return the opacity of the second image to 100%.



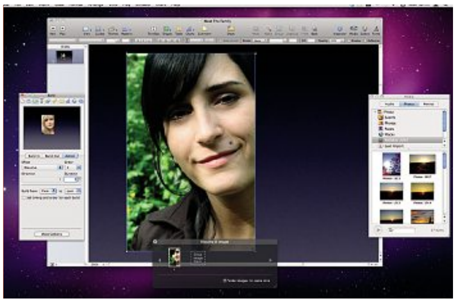
QUICK TIP

Face morph effects work best when you can see the features of one image appearing on the other before the transition is complete. In order to improve your morphs, edit your photos to highlight facial features and lines. Use *iPhoto* or *Preview*.



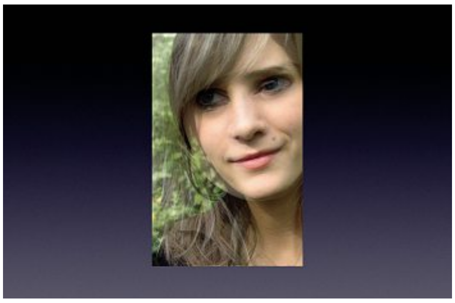
06 More cropping

Now select the first image and perform the same masking action so that the two images are the exact same size. When you have finished masking the image you should only be able to see the second image, which is sitting above the first image on the slide.



07 Apply a dissolve

Select the top image and, from the **Inspector** pane, select the **Build** tab. Now select the **Action** tab and choose the **Dissolve** effect. Set the duration of the effect to five seconds and watch the preview window to check the effect works properly.



08 Test it out

Hit the play button at the top of the *Keynote* interface to display your slideshow. With only one slide included you will only see your face morph effect move from one image to another. Go back and adjust the **Dissolve** effect or the positioning of your images if need be. ●

Take the Firefox 4 tour

Discover how to make the most of Firefox 4's new features

>> ON THE DISC
You can find *Firefox 4* on the cover disc.

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY:
Beginner

TIME NEEDED:
15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
OS X 10.5 or later, Firefox 4

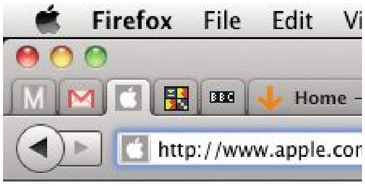
After two years in development, *Firefox 4* is finally here. It's packed with features, but that's only half the story. Version 4 taps into the OpenGL capabilities of Mac graphics cards to make navigating web pages faster.

Firefox 4 also supports the latest web standards, including HTML5, CSS3 and downloadable fonts, ensuring it'll work with all the latest websites. Once you've installed it, read on to discover how to make the most of its new and improved features.

Nick Peers

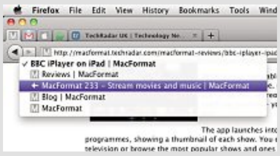
App Tabs

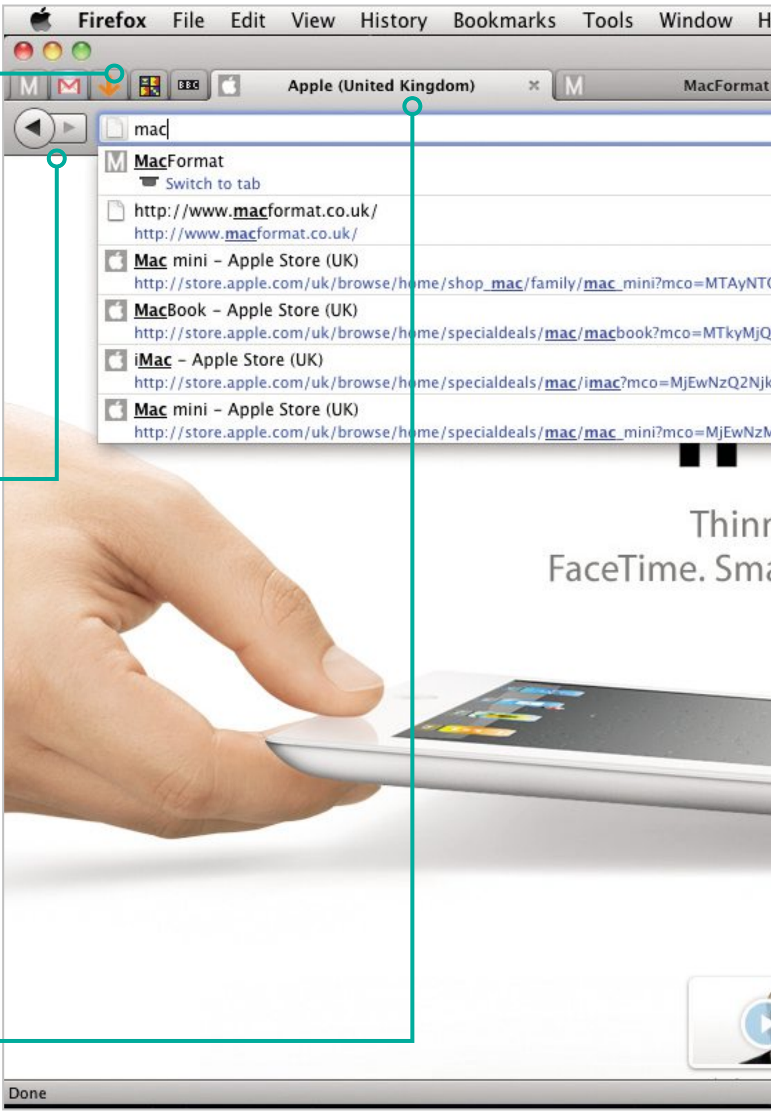
These are favourite sites – such as your webmail account or Apple's homepage – that you can 'pin' permanently to the tab bar. To create one, open a tab, browse to the site in question, then ctrl -click the tab and choose Pin as App Tab. It will appear as a mini-tab on the left of the tab bar and will be permanently left in place unless you ctrl -click it again and choose Unpin Tab.


Firefox
File
Edit
Vi
Home
http://www.apple.cor

Access History

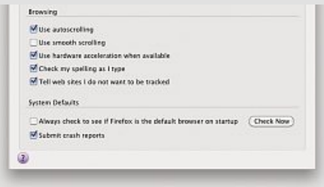
If you want to revisit pages you've recently accessed, you can open the **History** menu and choose from the options listed. But if you want to revisit pages from a specific tab, select the tab in question then ctrl -click the back button next to the Awesome Bar to access the tab's own history.


Firefox
File
Edit
View
History
Bookmarks
Tools
Wind
TechRadar UK | Technology Ne...
http://macformat.techradar.com/macformat-reviews/bbc-iplayer-ipad
✓ BBC iPlayer on iPad | MacFormat
Reviews | MacFormat
MacFormat 233 – Stream movies and music | MacFormat
Blog | MacFormat
MacFormat


Firefox
File
Edit
View
History
Bookmarks
Tools
Window
H
Apple (United Kingdom)
MacFormat
mac
MacFormat
Switch to tab
http://www.macformat.co.uk/
http://www.macformat.co.uk/
Mac mini – Apple Store (UK)
http://store.apple.com/uk/browse/home/shop_mac/family/mac_mini?mco=MTAyNTC
MacBook – Apple Store (UK)
http://store.apple.com/uk/browse/home/specialdeals/mac/macbook?mco=MTkyMjQ
iMac – Apple Store (UK)
http://store.apple.com/uk/browse/home/specialdeals/mac/imac?mco=MjEwNzQ2Njk
Mac mini – Apple Store (UK)
http://store.apple.com/uk/browse/home/specialdeals/mac/mac_mini?mco=MjEwNzM
Thinn
FaceTime. Sma
Done

Increase privacy

Some websites place cookies on your hard drive to track browsing habits for targeted advertising. The **Do Not Track** feature tells compliant websites you wish to opt out: open the **Firefox** menu, select Preferences > Advanced tab and tick **Tell web sites I do not want to be tracked**.



Browsing

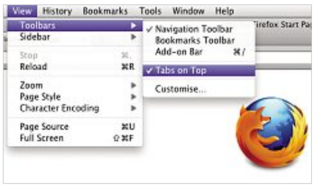
☑ Use autoscrolling
☐ Use smooth scrolling
☑ Use hardware acceleration when available
☑ Check my spelling as I type
☑ Tell web sites I do not want to be tracked

System Defaults

☐ Always check to see if Firefox is the default browser on startup [Check Now]
☑ Submit crash reports

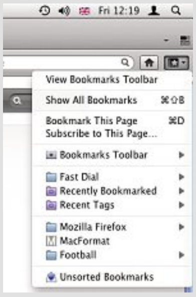
Move the tabs

All tabs can be rearranged. They're also now displayed above the address bar (or Awesome Bar as *Firefox* calls it). You can revert to how it used to appear in *Firefox*: simply open the View menu and select Toolbars > Tabs on top to remove the tick and place the tabs underneath the Awesome Bar.


View
History
Bookmarks
Tools
Window
Help
Toolbars
Sidebar
Stop
Reload ⌘R
Zoom
Page Style
Character Encoding
Page Source ⌘U
Full Screen ⇧⌘F
✓ Navigation Toolbar
Bookmarks Toolbar
Add-on Bar ⌘/
✓ Tabs on Top
Customise...
irefox Start Pa

Integrated bookmarks

At first glance, the **Bookmarks** button simply apes the options present on the **Bookmarks** menu. But there are a couple of options here you won't find on said menu: **View Bookmarks Toolbar** lets you toggle this toolbar on and off, while clicking **Unsorted Bookmarks** opens the **Bookmarks Library** window to let you easily organise your bookmarks.

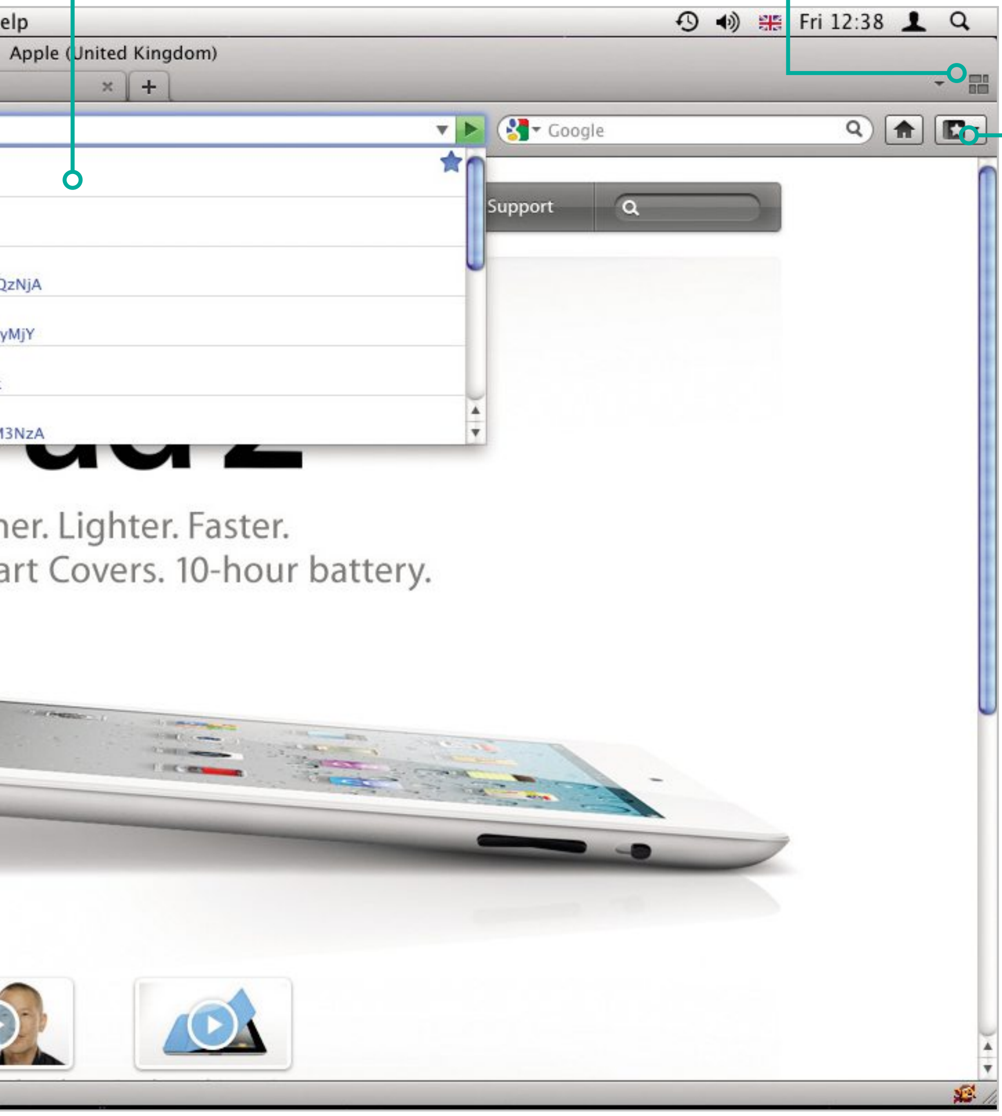

Fri 12:19
View Bookmarks Toolbar
Show All Bookmarks ⌘⇧B
Bookmark This Page ⌘D
Subscribe to This Page...
Bookmarks Toolbar
Fast Dial
Recently Bookmarked
Recent Tags
Mozilla Firefox
MacFormat
Football
Unsorted Bookmarks

Awesome Bar

Mozilla rechristened the address bar the Awesome Bar for *Firefox 3*. *Firefox 4*'s Awesome Bar is even more powerful: can't remember the address of a particular site? Start typing and *Firefox* will check your bookmarks, history and open tabs to make suggestions via a drop-down menu – just select one to access it. Over time the bar learns how you browse, providing even better matches.

Tab groupings

Too many tabs open at once? Use *Firefox 4*'s new Panorama feature to organise them into groups. Click the Group Your Tabs button (it's above the Bookmarks button on the right), then drag and drop open tabs between different groups. Groups can be labelled for identification, and you switch between them by reopening Group Your Tabs and clicking a tab within a selected group.



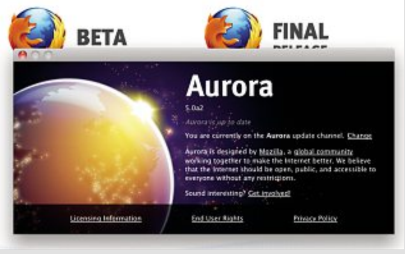
Add-ons Manager

Firefox 4's new Add-ons Manager is now integrated into a separate tab within the browser itself rather than a separate pop-up window. Select Tools > Add-ons to view it – from here you can easily find new add-ons and manage those already installed. Tweak settings, disable and remove from one handy window. Add-ons are updated every time you open the Add-ons Manager too.

HOW TO / Use Firefox 5

The release of *Firefox 4* has coincided with Mozilla's decision to speed up future development of *Firefox*. With versions 5, 6 and 7 due before the end of the year, Mozilla has revamped its beta-testing cycle and launched *Firefox Aurora*, an alpha build of the next version of *Firefox*.

It's aimed largely at web developers and techies who can't wait three months for the next release, but anyone can try it if they wish. Visit **www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/channel** to take it for a test drive, but don't expect to see any new radical features, and make sure you back up your Mac before you install it – just in case.



5.0a2

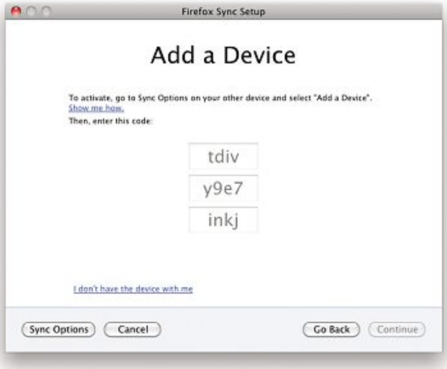
Aurora is up to date

You are currently on the Aurora update channel. Change

Aurora is designed by Mozilla, a global community working together to make the Internet better. We believe that the Internet should be open, public, and accessible to everyone without any restrictions.

Sound interesting? Get involved!

You can get hold of Firefox 5 in its beta iteration.



To activate, go to Sync Options on your other device and select "Add a Device".
Show me how.
Then, enter this code:

tdiv
y9e7
inkj

I don't have the device with me

Firefox Sync

This has been integrated into the main browser to make it easy to back up and sync key settings – passwords, bookmarks, history, tabs and preferences – across all your computers and devices. All data is encrypted locally prior to transmission for greater security. Top tip: it's much easier to set up Firefox Sync on a new computer if another synced machine is already on and connected.

CrashPlan
CRASHPLAN
Destinations
Files
Inbound
Backup
Restore
Settings
History
Friends
Destinations
MacBook Pro
MacBook

Get ultra-security for your data with an off-site CrashPlan backup.

Back up your Mac off-site

If there's a fire or burglary, your data's still at risk, so back up off-site for free!

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: A friend with some spare hard disk space, both of you to install the free CrashPlan

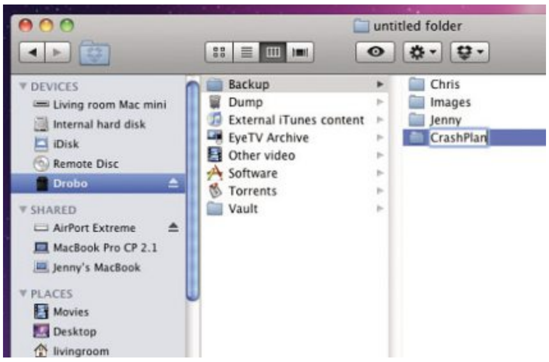
>> ON THE DISC

Find a copy of *CrashPlan* on the disc.

Apple probably deserves more credit than anyone else for getting us all to back up our precious data. *Time Machine* makes it so easy to back everything up that lots of us now have at least one copy of our data in case of a hard disk fail.

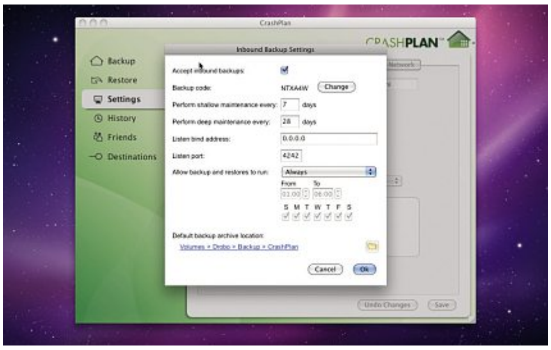
The problem with these so-called local backups, though, is that if anything catastrophic were to occur at your home or office, you've lost not just your original data but your backup as well. Backing up 'off-site', or sending your data securely over the internet to another location, guards against this. Aside from the fact that the initial backup can take a long time to complete, the problem is that it's expensive. Companies can charge a lot of money every year to store your data on their servers.

With *CrashPlan*, however, you can choose to back up not only locally and to *CrashPlan's* managed data centres, but also to a remote hard disk connected to a friend's Mac or PC. It's free for non-commercial use, but remember to check if you're on a capped internet package; you don't want to get a bill for transferring gigabytes of data.
Christopher Phin


untitled folder
DEVICES
Living room Mac mini
Internal hard disk
iDisk
Remote Disc
Drobo
SHARED
AirPort Extreme
MacBook Pro CP 2.1
Jenny's MacBook
PLACES
Movies
Desktop
livingroom
Backup
Dump
External iTunes content
EyeTV Archive
Other video
Software
Torrents
Vault
Chris
Images
Jenny
CrashPlan

01 Set backup destination

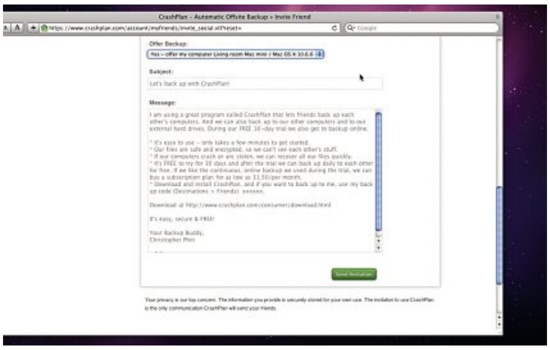
We're going to start by setting up your computer as a target for your friend to back up to. (*CrashPlan* works on Mac, Windows and Linux.) By default, *CrashPlan* saves backups from your friends in a subfolder of the **Library** directory in your **Home** folder; we don't want to clog up our internal hard disk, however, so we'll start by creating a folder on an external disk.



Accept inbound backups: ☑
Backup code: NTXA4W
Perform shallow maintenance every: 7 days
Perform deep maintenance every: 28 days
Listen bind address: 0.0.0.0
Listen port: 4242
Allow backup and restores to run: Always
Default backup archive location: Volumes > Drobo > Backup > CrashPlan

02 Configure inbound backup

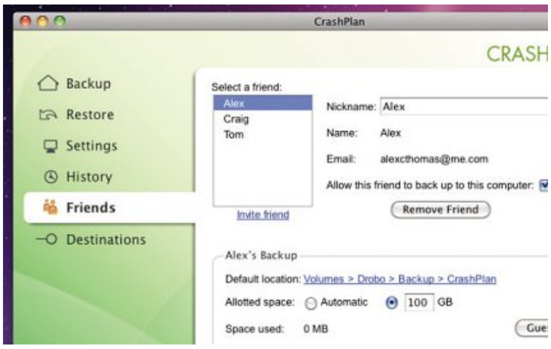
Download and install the client from the disc or from **www.crashplan.com**, and set up a *CrashPlan* account. Once the client has loaded, click **Settings** then the **Configure** button next to **Inbound backup from other computers**. Click the yellow folder icon bottom right, then point backups to the folder you created in step 1.



Subject: Let's back up with CrashPlan!

03 Invite friends

Click the **Friends** tab, then the **Invite friends** link. This will open the CrashPlan website to let you enter the email addresses of friends to invite. Scroll down and you'll see the standard email that *CrashPlan* will send (you can change it). Include your backup code, a six-character ID you'll see on the **Friends** tab of the *CrashPlan* app.

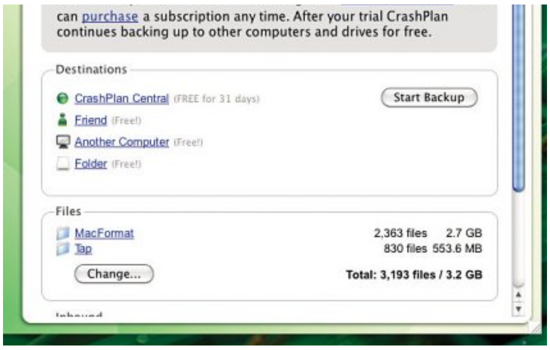


Select a friend: Alex, Craig, Tom
Nickname: Alex
Name: Alex
Email: alexcthomas@me.com
Allow this friend to back up to this computer: ☑

Alex's Backup
Default location: Volumes > Drobo > Backup > CrashPlan
Allotted space: ○ Automatic ● 100 GB
Space used: 0 MB

04 Set preferences for each friend

Back in *CrashPlan*, you'll soon see the friends you've invited showing in the **Friends** tab. Click on one of them, and you can set individual preferences for each person. You can choose where their data is backed up to – it defaults to the folder set in step 2 – and choose to limit the amount of space they are allowed on your hard disks.



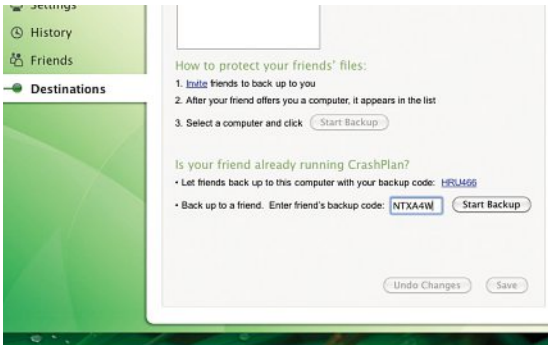
can purchase a subscription any time. After your trial CrashPlan continues backing up to other computers and drives for free.

Destinations
CrashPlan Central (FREE for 31 days)
Friend (Free!)
Another Computer (Free!)
Folder (Free!)

Files
MacFormat 2,363 files 2.7 GB
Tap 830 files 553.6 MB
Total: 3,193 files / 3.2 GB

05 Decide what to back up

Now switch to the computer that's backing up to you. Install and sign up for a *CrashPlan* account; once the client's loaded, pick what to back up. (It defaults to backing up your entire user folder). Click **Change** in the **Files** section, and put a check mark next to those folders/files you want to back up.

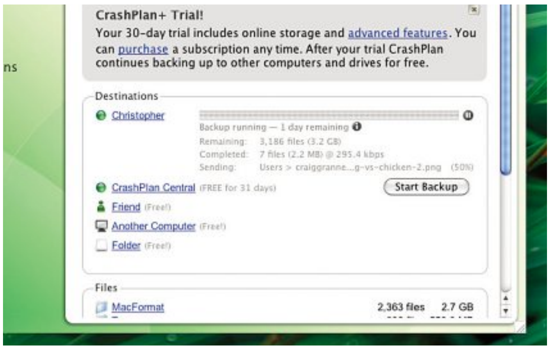


How to protect your friends' files:
1. Invite friends to back up to you
2. After your friend offers you a computer, it appears in the list
3. Select a computer and click Start Backup

Is your friend already running CrashPlan?
• Let friends back up to this computer with your backup code: HRU466
• Back up to a friend. Enter friend's backup code: NTXA4W Start Backup

06 Enter friend's ID

From the **Destinations** sub-section of *CrashPlan's* main **Backup** screen, click **Friend**. This will flick you to the **Friends** tab of the **Destinations** section, where you can type in the backup code from the email sent in step 3. Once that's entered, backup begins – so long as the friend's computer is online, and not set to disallow backups.



CrashPlan+ Trial!
Your 30-day trial includes online storage and advanced features. You can purchase a subscription any time. After your trial CrashPlan continues backing up to other computers and drives for free.

Destinations
Christopher
Backup running — 1 day remaining
Remaining: 3,186 files (3.2 GB)
Completed: 7 files (2.2 MB) @ 295.4 kbps
Sending: Users > craiggranne...g-vs-chicken-2.png (50%)
CrashPlan Central (FREE for 31 days)
Friend (Free!)
Another Computer (Free!)
Folder (Free!)

Files
MacFormat 2,363 files 2.7 GB

07 You're all backed up!

Click on the main **Backup** tab of the *CrashPlan* client and you can see that your files are now backing up to your friend's computer. Everything is encrypted, too. Now you've got your free off-site backup sorted, you can use *CrashPlan* to back up your data to other locations to make doubly sure it's all safe; see the expert tip, right. ●

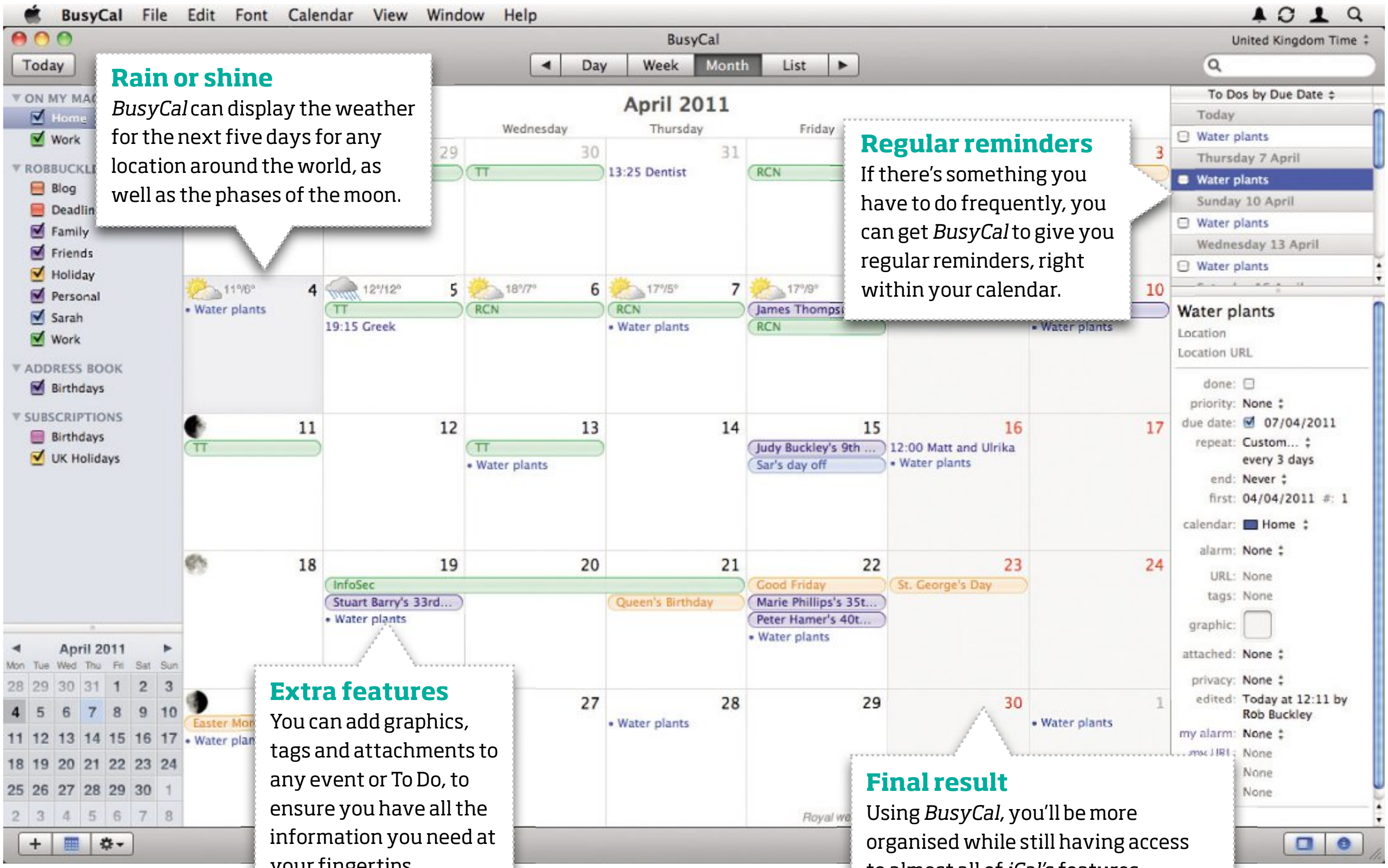
>>EXPERT TIP

Backing up your backup

Making a backup of your data isn't a guarantee that it's safe. The backup can fail just as your original can. All you're doing is playing the odds; making a single copy of your data halves your chances of losing something. But you can play those odds in your favour by making multiple backups; each can serve a different purpose. Off-site backup is very secure, but restoring (as well as backing up) is slow. But there's no reason why you can't have a local backup as well. *CrashPlan* allows this, but you could happily also use *Time Machine* (great for restoring accidentally deleted or overwritten files) and *SuperDuper!* (great for making bootable clones) alongside *CrashPlan*.

>>QUICK TIP

As well as the technique of backing up to a friend's computer, it's even easier to back up between computers that you own – a work PC and home Mac, for example – from the **Computers** tab in the **Destinations** screen.


BusyCal File Edit Font Calendar View Window Help
Today
Day Week Month List
April 2011
To Dos by Due Date
Water plants

Rain or shine

BusyCal can display the weather for the next five days for any location around the world, as well as the phases of the moon.

Regular reminders

If there's something you have to do frequently, you can get *BusyCal* to give you regular reminders, right within your calendar.

Extra features

You can add graphics, tags and attachments to any event or To Do, to ensure you have all the information you need at your fingertips.

Final result

Using *BusyCal*, you'll be more organised while still having access to almost all of *iCal*'s features, including iPhone and iPad syncing.

Go beyond iCal with BusyCal

Get more than iCal offers with BusyCal's many enhancements

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: BusyCal (www.busymac.com), a Google, MobileMe or CalDav account for online syncing, Mac OS X 10.5 or greater

>> ON THE DISC

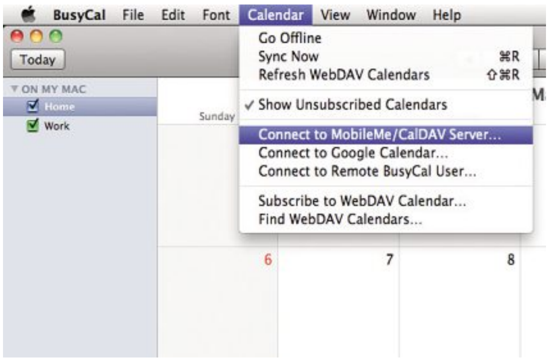
A trial of *BusyCal* is on the disc.

There's no doubting *iCal* is a great piece of calendar software, but it has its limitations. Although there are alternatives, these usually lack most of *iCal's* features or are separate from *iCal*. *BusyCal* (£30 on the Mac App Store), however, is like a professional version of *iCal*. It contains virtually all of *iCal's* features and has a whole set of great new ones of its own, but stays in sync with *iCal*. So whatever changes you make in *BusyCal* will appear in *iCal* on your Mac, and *Calendar* on iOS.

Among *BusyCal's* handy features are a list view for calendar items, improved alerts and alarms, sticky notes and the ability to change the fonts, colours and sizes of text. You can colour-code public holidays, add graphics to particular days or events and collaboratively edit calendars with other users. *BusyCal* also has a few different event types such as banners and journal entries, so you can turn *iCal* into a diary. It also lets you view your To Dos in the calendar, and you can set up recurring To Do items for things you do regularly.

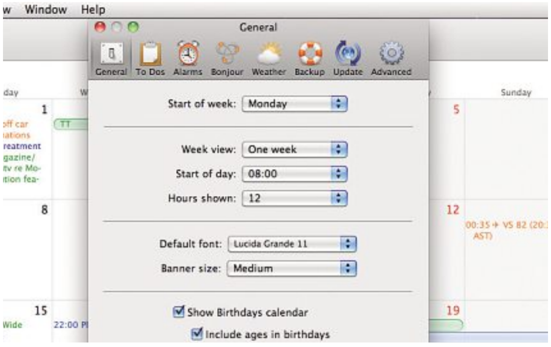
Here are the best ways to get the most from *BusyCal*.

Rob Buckley


BusyCal File Edit Font Calendar View Window Help
Go Offline
Sync Now ⌘R
Refresh WebDAV Calendars ⇧⌘R
✓ Show Unsubscribed Calendars
Connect to MobileMe/CalDAV Server…
Connect to Google Calendar…
Connect to Remote BusyCal User…
Subscribe to WebDAV Calendar…
Find WebDAV Calendars…
Today
ON MY MAC
Home
Work

01 Sync your calendars

The first time you launch *BusyCal*, it will import your *iCal* calendars, including MobileMe, Google, subscribed and birthday calendars. But if you haven't set up *iCal*, you can still use the **Calendar** menu to connect to your online calendars and subscribe to WebDav calendars, as well as connect directly to other *BusyCal* users who have chosen to publish their calendars over the internet.


Window
Help
General
General
To Dos
Alarms
Bonjour
Weather
Backup
Update
Advanced

Start of week: Monday

Week view: One week

Start of day: 08:00

Hours shown: 12

Default font: Lucida Grande 11

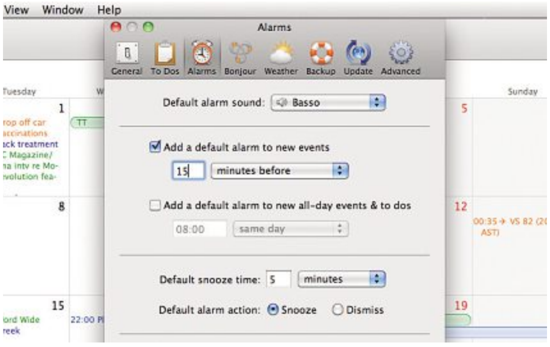
Banner size: Medium

☑ Show Birthdays calendar

☑ Include ages in birthdays

02 Birthday time

To display the birthdays of contacts in your *Address Book*, go to **Preferences** in the *BusyCal* menu and click **Show Birthdays calendar**. This displays an *iCal*-style birthday calendar – tick **Include ages in birthdays** to add ages to all the events. To change colours, select **Birthdays** in the sidebar, right-click and choose from the **Color** menu.


View
Window
Help
Alarms
General
To Dos
Alarms
Bonjour
Weather
Backup
Update
Advanced

Default alarm sound: Basso

☑ Add a default alarm to new events

15 minutes before

☐ Add a default alarm to new all-day events & to dos

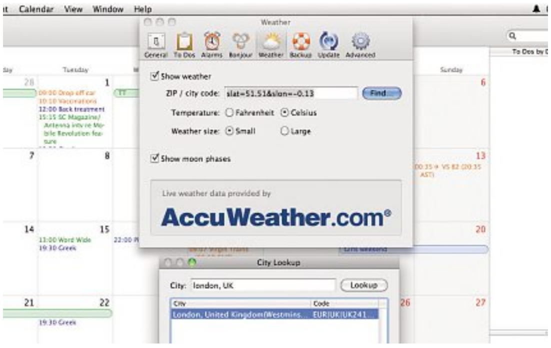
08:00 same day

Default snooze time: 5 minutes

Default alarm action: ● Snooze ○ Dismiss

03 Alarm or snooze?

The **Alarms** preferences pane lets you set up the default alarms for different kinds of events. *BusyCal* alerts can also be made to 'snooze' and you can configure how long they snooze before appearing again. You can also add a menu bar item containing all your events for the day, so you can access them even when *BusyCal* isn't running.


Calendar
View
Window
Help
Weather
General
To Dos
Alarms
Bonjour
Weather
Backup
Update
Advanced
Find
Lookup

☑ Show weather

ZIP / city code: slat=51.51&slon=-0.13

Temperature: ○ Fahrenheit ● Celsius

Weather size: ● Small ○ Large

☑ Show moon phases

Live weather data provided by AccuWeather.com

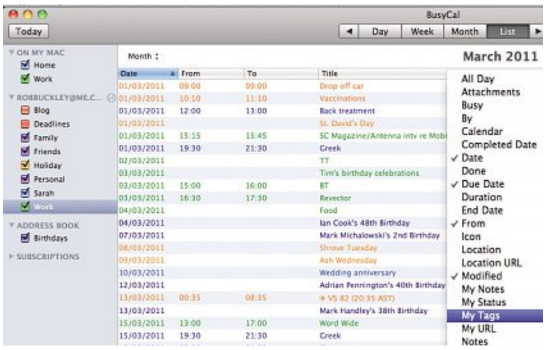
City Lookup

City: london, UK

City	Code
London, United Kingdom(Westmins...	EUR|UK|UK241...

04 The weather forecast

BusyCal will try to determine your location and display weather for the next five days. If it doesn't get it right, or you'd like to display the weather for another location or turn them off, go to the **Weather** preferences pane and enter a latitude and longitude in the location box. Or click on **Find…** to use the **City Lookup** function.

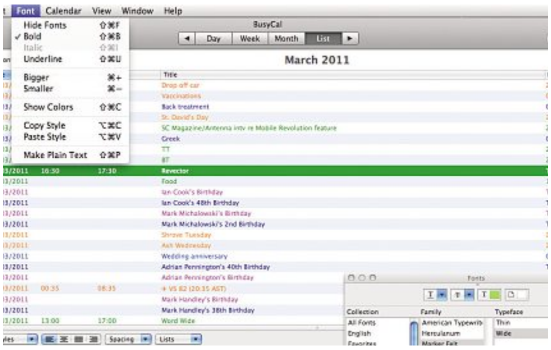

BusyCal
Today
Day
Week
Month
List
ON MY MAC
Home
Work
ROBBUCKLEY@ME.C...
Blog
Deadlines
Family
Friends
Holiday
Personal
Sarah
Work
ADDRESS BOOK
Birthdays
SUBSCRIPTIONS
Month
All Day
Attachments
Busy
By
Calendar
Completed Date
✓ Date
Done
✓ Due Date
Duration
End Date
✓ From
Icon
Location
Location URL
✓ Modified
My Notes
My Status
My Tags
My URL
Notes

March 2011

Date	From	To	Title
01/03/2011	09:00	09:00	Drop off car
01/03/2011	10:10	11:10	Vaccinations
01/03/2011	12:00	13:00	Back treatment
01/03/2011			St. David's Day
01/03/2011	15:15	15:45	SC Magazine/Antenna intv re Mobi
01/03/2011	19:30	21:30	Greek
02/03/2011			TT
03/03/2011			Tim's birthday celebrations
03/03/2011	15:00	16:00	BT
03/03/2011	16:30	17:30	Revector
04/03/2011			Food
04/03/2011			Ian Cook's 48th Birthday
07/03/2011			Mark Michalowski's 2nd Birthday
08/03/2011			Shrove Tuesday
09/03/2011			Ash Wednesday
10/03/2011			Wedding anniversary
12/03/2011			Adrian Pennington's 40th Birthday
13/03/2011	00:35	08:35	✈ VS 82 (20:35 AST)
13/03/2011			Mark Handley's 38th Birthday
15/03/2011	13:00	17:00	Word Wide
15/03/2011	19:30	21:30	Greek

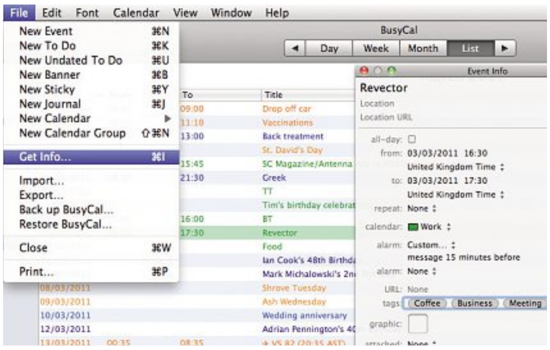
05 The List view

BusyCal has a **List** view for events and To Dos that you can access by clicking **List** at the top of the calendar window. You can sort events by column just by clicking on a column header, clicking it twice for a reverse sort. You can also customise which columns appear in the **List** view by right-clicking on column names and selecting them.


Font
Calendar
View
Window
Help
Hide Fonts ⇧⌘F
✓ Bold ⇧⌘B
Italic ⇧⌘I
Underline ⇧⌘U
Bigger ⌘+
Smaller ⌘−
Show Colors ⇧⌘C
Copy Style ⌥⌘C
Paste Style ⌥⌘V
Make Plain Text ⇧⌘P
BusyCal
Day
Week
Month
List
March 2011
Title
Fonts
Collection
Family
Typeface
All Fonts
English
Favorites
American Typewriter
Herculanum
Marker Felt
Thin
Wide
Spacing
Lists

06 Have some style

Add and customise notes by clicking on an event in **List** view, then using the text editor at the bottom to change alignment and spacing, apply styles or turn items into lists. Use the **Font** menu to change text formatting and bring up the **Fonts** and **Colors** palettes. To apply a style to a piece of text, use **Copy Style** and **Paste Style**.


File
Edit
Font
Calendar
View
Window
Help
New Event ⌘N
New To Do ⌘K
New Undated To Do ⌘U
New Banner ⌘B
New Sticky ⌘Y
New Journal ⌘J
New Calendar ▶
New Calendar Group ⇧⌘N
Get Info… ⌘I
Import…
Export…
Back up BusyCal…
Restore BusyCal…
Close ⌘W
Print… ⌘P
BusyCal
Day
Week
Month
List
To
Title
Event Info

Revector

Location

Location URL

all-day: ☐

from: 03/03/2011 16:30 United Kingdom Time

to: 03/03/2011 17:30 United Kingdom Time

repeat: None

calendar: Work

alarm: Custom… message 15 minutes before

alarm: None

URL: None

tags: Coffee Business Meeting

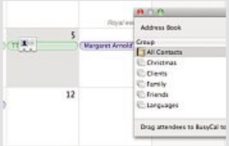
graphic:

attached: None

07 Tag your entries

The **Info** panel available from File > Get Info lets you change virtually any field for an event. Add graphics to events using drag and drop, attach files and add tags that you can use in searches. You can get a list of tags used and edit it using Edit > Edit Tags… To customise fields in the **Info** panel, click the 'I' icon in its menu bar. ●

>> EXPERT TIP



Add your contacts

BusyCal is well integrated with OS X's *Address Book*. There's an **Address Panel** of contacts available in the **Window** menu from which you can drag contacts, and you can do the same from *Address Book* itself. If you drag a contact onto the To Do list or an existing To Do, that contact's information will be added directly onto the calendar and *BusyCal* will create a new meeting with that contact; if you drag a contact onto an existing event, *BusyCal* will add them as an attendee to that event. In both cases, *BusyCal* will send out an invite, either through your email application or through MobileMe if the event is in a MobileMe calendar.

>> QUICK TIP

Make any To Do recur by adding a schedule to it using the **Get Info** panel from the **File** menu. Standard intervals are daily, weekly and yearly, but you can customise too.

>>OS X SURVIVAL GUIDE

Light up your Mac life

So useful, yet so often forgotten: don't let Spotlight pass you by

>>PROFILE

Name: Christopher Brennan
Occupation: Freelance journalist, Mac consultant and house-husband
System(s): Mac Pro (2x2.8GHz), MacBook (2GHz), 20-inch iMac (2GHz), 12-inch PowerBook G4 (1GHz)

Kids, who'd have 'em? That's something my dad used to say to me all the time. To be honest he still does. Now that I have a child (by the time you read this I'll have two) I can fully understand what he meant.

One of the first things I noticed upon becoming a dad is how resourceful children are when it comes to breaking and hiding things. You might think you've put that irreplaceable item on a high enough shelf, but your precious little darling will still find a way to destroy it with ease. Where is the Acetylene torch? The toddler had it last and now no one can find it.

Fortunately in the Mac world, things are much simpler. There is order and finding things is easy. Files are rarely anywhere other than exactly where you left them. Even if you completely forget where you put something you can rely on Spotlight to help you out of a jam.

Spotlight has been a part of the Mac OS since way back in 2005, but unlike most five-year-olds it is organised and remembers where you put stuff.

Spotlight has many hidden talents and it's so much more than a file-finding tool. I often use it as an application launcher, for example. I like my Dock to have as few applications in it as possible. Thanks to Spotlight I can, because all I have to do to open, let's say *Pages*, is type 'Pages' in the search bar and hit ⏎. It's almost as fast, if not faster, than using the Dock.

The fact that Spotlight searches everything is a real boost too. Documents, mail messages, web pages, music, movies – everything with any relevance to your search term is found. However, it can go a bit bonkers and stop finding stuff and then refuse to work at all, not unlike a toddler to be honest.

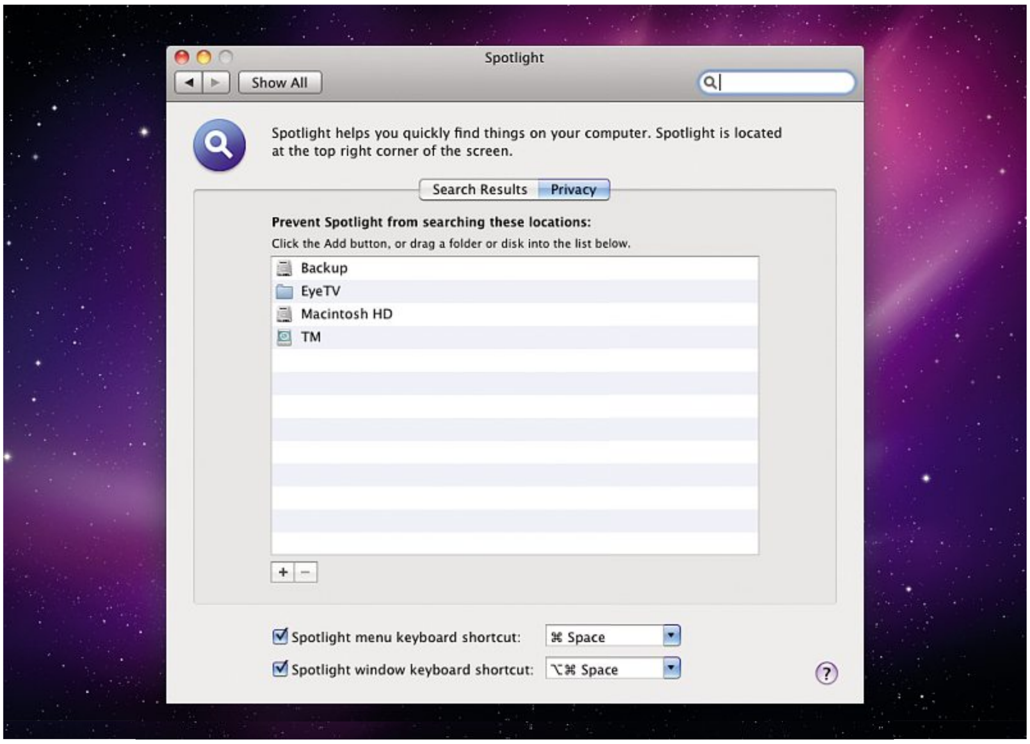
"Spotlight has many hidden talents and it's so much more than a file-finding tool. I often use it as an application launcher, for example"

Fortunately you don't have to bribe Spotlight with chocolate or send it to the naughty step to get your results back. It's a case of simply re-indexing your hard drive. It sounds intensive and complicated, but trust me – even a child could do it. Go to the Apple menu > System Preferences and click on **Spotlight**. Now, click on **Privacy**. Just drag your hard disk icon to the box named **Prevent Spotlight from searching these locations**. Click on **OK** and drag it back out. Incredibly enough, this is it. Your hard disk will now re-index itself and your Spotlight results should be back to normal.

You can also stop Spotlight from indexing individual folders if you want to exclude them from your results. Just drag them to the box called **Prevent Spotlight from searching these locations** and leave them there. If you have a backup disk that you keep mounted it's also a good idea to exclude this from Spotlight to stop you from getting lots of duplicate results.

Switch back to the **Search Results** tab and you can choose what results Spotlight will display too. To include or exclude any, simply tick the options as appropriate.

Spotlight is one of those amazing tools in Mac OS X that appears so simplistic and yet performs incredible work to make life easier. Conversely, children are mainly neither simple nor hard-working and rarely make life easier. Shame you can't reboot them from time to time too. ●



Spotlight helps you quickly find things on your computer. Spotlight is located at the top right corner of the screen.

Prevent Spotlight from searching these locations:
Click the Add button, or drag a folder or disk into the list below.

- Backup
- EyeTV
- Macintosh HD
- TM

☑ Spotlight menu keyboard shortcut: ⌘ Space
☑ Spotlight window keyboard shortcut: ⌥⌘ Space

Managing Spotlight indexing is one of the simplest Mac OS X procedures you can perform.

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+

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- ✓ Transfer in Exchange 2003 & 2007 easily

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Suzi Perry

Technology TV Presenter

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www.heartinternet.co.uk

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Email: sales@heartinternet.co.uk

MasterCard Maestro VISA Direct Debit

Prices exclude VAT
Normal price from £29.99 per month

Get more from Disk Utility

Manage your hard drives, memory sticks and more

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 20 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard

Lurking inside your Mac's **Utilities** folder is a little app called *Disk Utility*. You may have used it on occasion – probably if things have gone amiss with your Mac – but chances are it sits there unnoticed and unloved most of the time. And yet it's an incredibly powerful tool that does more than just repair permissions. It'll reformat drives for you, wipe free space, burn optical disks, resize partitions and more. We're going to take you on a tour of one of Mac OS X's most underrated applications.

First, it's important you understand a couple of important terms. When we talk about a disk, we're talking about the physical unit, such as your Mac's hard drive or SSD. Each disk may contain several volumes – one for Mac OS X and another for Boot Camp, for example. For the purposes of this tutorial, volumes and partitions are the same thing. The distinction between disk and volume/partition is important in *Disk Utility*, because the options you see can differ, depending on whether you've selected a disk or one of its volumes.

Another term you may come across is RAID, which stands for Redundant Array of Independent (or Inexpensive) Disks. This combines multiple disks to work as one, and depending on how you set it up, can achieve a number of things. Firstly, a Mirrored RAID Set (called RAID 1) stores identical data on two or more disks, so that if one goes wrong, your data isn't lost. Then there's RAID 0, or Striped RAID Set, which enables you to access your data more quickly. Lastly, a Concentrated RAID Set combines smaller disks together to make one larger one.

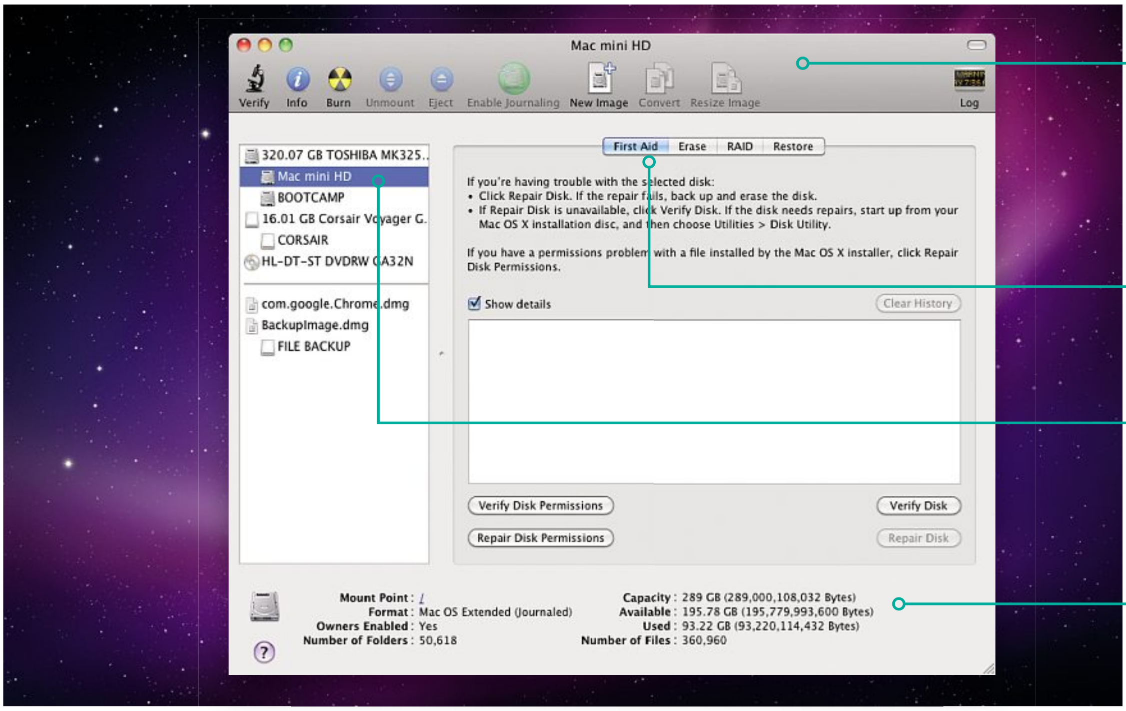
> *"Disk Utility reformats drives, wipes free space, burns optical disks, resizes partitions and more"*

Using RAID is largely for power-users, and you manage it in *Disk Utility*. We'll show you where to get started on the opposite page. Note that if you have a Mac Pro with a RAID card, there's a separate application in your **Utilities** folder for RAID management.

Disk Utility also enables you to create disk images, which are single files that contain other files. You'll probably have come across DMG files when you download software – these are a type of image. When you open a disk image, it'll mount on your desktop and works like an external disk, so you eject it to remove it. Images are a useful way of taking a snapshot of your Mac that you can restore at a later date if need be. They can also be burned onto CDs or DVDs using *Disk Utility*.

Laurence Cable

>> QUICK LOOK / The Disk Utility interface



If you're having trouble with the selected disk:
- Click Repair Disk. If the repair fails, back up and erase the disk.
- If Repair Disk is unavailable, click Verify Disk. If the disk needs repairs, start up from your Mac OS X installation disc, and then choose Utilities > Disk Utility.

If you have a permissions problem with a file installed by the Mac OS X installer, click Repair Disk Permissions.

Mount Point : /
Format : Mac OS Extended (Journaled)
Owners Enabled : Yes
Number of Folders : 50,618
Capacity : 289 GB (289,000,108,032 Bytes)
Available : 195.78 GB (195,779,993,600 Bytes)
Used : 93.22 GB (93,220,114,432 Bytes)
Number of Files : 360,960

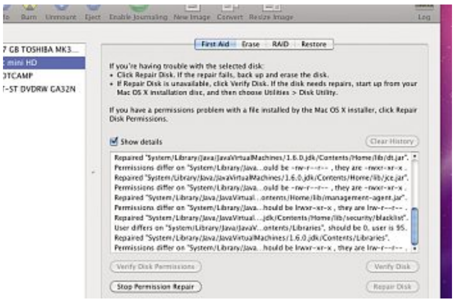
Toolbar
Quick access to some of *Disk Utility's* key features. See the Quick Tip opposite for more.

Disk options
These tabs let you choose what to do with your selected disk.

List of drives
Disks connected to your Mac appear here, with partitions below.

Vital stats
Select a disk or volume and view information, such as size or format.

HOW TO / Use Disk Utility's functions


Burn
Unmount
Eject
Enable Journaling
New Image
Convert
Resize Image
Log
7 GB TOSHIBA MK3...
mini HD
OTCAMP
T-ST DVDRW GA32N
First Aid
Erase
RAID
Restore
Clear History
Verify Disk Permissions
Verify Disk
Stop Permission Repair
Repair Disk

If you're having trouble with the selected disk:
- Click Repair Disk. If the repair fails, back up and erase the disk.
- If Repair Disk is unavailable, click Verify Disk. If the disk needs repairs, start up from your Mac OS X installation disc, and then choose Utilities > Disk Utility.

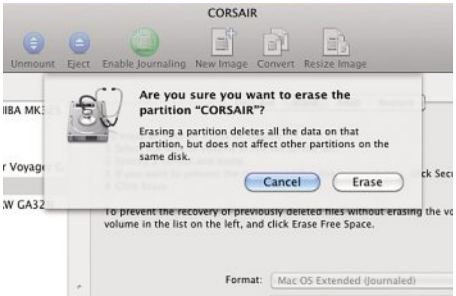
If you have a permissions problem with a file installed by the Mac OS X installer, click Repair Disk Permissions.

☑ Show details

```
Repaired "System/Library/Java/JavaVirtualMachines/1.6.0.jdk/Contents/Home/lib/dt.jar".
Permissions differ on "System/Library/Java...ould be -rw-r--r-- , they are -rwxr-xr-x .
Repaired "System/Library/Java/JavaVirtualMachines/1.6.0.jdk/Contents/Home/lib/jce.jar".
Permissions differ on "System/Library/Java...ould be -rw-r--r-- , they are -rwxr-xr-x .
Repaired "System/Library/Java/JavaVirtual...ontents/Home/lib/management-agent.jar".
Permissions differ on "System/Library/Java...hould be lrwxr-xr-x , they are lrw-r--r-- .
Repaired "System/Library/Java/JavaVirtual....jdk/Contents/Home/lib/security/blacklist".
User differs on "System/Library/Java/JavaV...ontents/Libraries", should be 0, user is 95.
Repaired "System/Library/Java/JavaVirtualMachines/1.6.0.jdk/Contents/Libraries".
Permissions differ on "System/Library/Java...hould be lrwxr-xr-x , they are lrw-r--r-- .
```

01 Disk First Aid

If your Mac's not working quite right, repairing your disk permissions should be the first thing you do. Select the volume name on the left and click **Repair Disk Permissions**. Note the **Verify Disk** button – this will scan deeper; boot from an OS X Install disc to repair issues.


CORSAIR
Unmount
Eject
Enable Journaling
New Image
Convert
Resize Image
IBA MK
r Voyage
W GA32
ck Secu
Cancel
Erase

Are you sure you want to erase the partition "CORSAIR"?

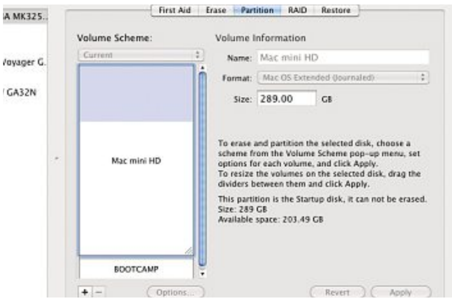
Erasing a partition deletes all the data on that partition, but does not affect other partitions on the same disk.

To prevent the recovery of previously deleted files without erasing the vo
volume in the list on the left, and click Erase Free Space.

Format: Mac OS Extended (Journaled)

02 Erase disks

To wipe a drive, be it a hard disk or a USB stick, click the volume, then **Erase**. When you erase, data remains on the disk; to get rid of it more securely, click **Security Options…** and choose **Zero Out Data**, **7-Pass** or **35-Pass Erase**. This can take a while on larger disks.


A MK325..
Voyager G.
GA32N
First Aid
Erase
Partition
RAID
Restore
Mac mini HD
BOOTCAMP
+
−
Options...
Revert
Apply

Volume Scheme: Current

Volume Information

Name: Mac mini HD

Format: Mac OS Extended (Journaled)

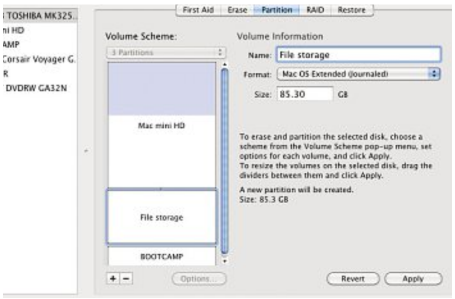
Size: 289.00 GB

To erase and partition the selected disk, choose a scheme from the Volume Scheme pop-up menu, set options for each volume, and click Apply.
To resize the volumes on the selected disk, drag the dividers between them and click Apply.

This partition is the Startup disk, it can not be erased.
Size: 289 GB
Available space: 203.49 GB

03 Create partitions

Partitioning a drive conjures up visions of losing all your data. This needn't be the case, but you should back up first to be on the safe side. Select a disk on the left and click **Partition**. Below, you'll see your current partitions. Select one with some free space and click **+**.


TOSHIBA MK325..
ni HD
AMP
Corsair Voyager G.
R
DVDRW GA32N
First Aid
Erase
Partition
RAID
Restore
Mac mini HD
File storage
BOOTCAMP
+
−
Options...
Revert
Apply

Volume Scheme: 3 Partitions

Volume Information

Name: File storage

Format: Mac OS Extended (Journaled)

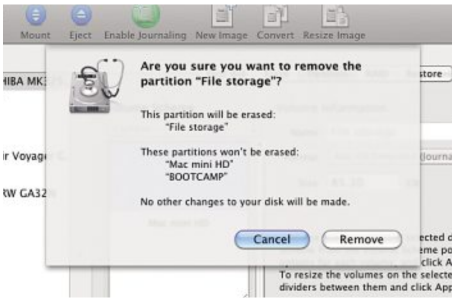
Size: 85.30 GB

To erase and partition the selected disk, choose a scheme from the Volume Scheme pop-up menu, set options for each volume, and click Apply.
To resize the volumes on the selected disk, drag the dividers between them and click Apply.

A new partition will be created.
Size: 85.3 GB

04 Apply a new arrangement

Disk Utility will split your partition in two. You can drag the separator to customise the new partition sizes. You can't alter the partition containing OS X here (other than to shrink it), but you can choose a name and format for the new ones. Click **Apply**, then **Partition**.


Mount
Eject
Enable Journaling
New Image
Convert
Resize Image
IBA MK
ir Voyage
W GA32
store
Journa
Cancel
Remove

Are you sure you want to remove the partition "File storage"?

This partition will be erased:
"File storage"

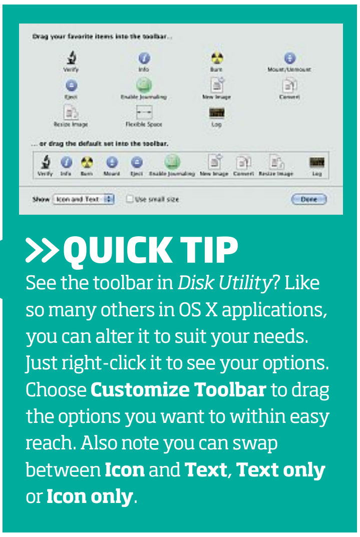
These partitions won't be erased:
"Mac mini HD"
"BOOTCAMP"

No other changes to your disk will be made.

To resize the volumes on the selecte
dividers between them and click App

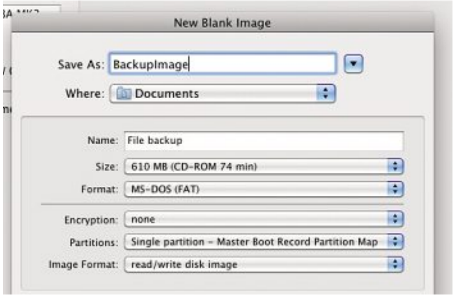
05 Increase partition size

You can enlarge a partition by removing the one directly below it and swallowing up the free space. Select the partition below the one to enlarge and click '-', then **Remove**, which will erase it. Then grab the lower right corner of A, drag it to fill the empty space and click **Apply**.


Drag your favorite items into the toolbar...
Verify
Info
Burn
Mount/Unmount
Eject
Enable Journaling
New Image
Convert
Resize Image
Flexible Space
Log
...or drag the default set into the toolbar.
Show
Icon and Text
Use small size
Done

QUICK TIP

See the toolbar in *Disk Utility*? Like so many others in OS X applications, you can alter it to suit your needs. Just right-click it to see your options. Choose **Customize Toolbar** to drag the options you want to within easy reach. Also note you can swap between **Icon** and **Text**, **Text only** or **Icon only**.


New Blank Image

Save As: BackupImage

Where: Documents

Name: File backup

Size: 610 MB (CD-ROM 74 min)

Format: MS-DOS (FAT)

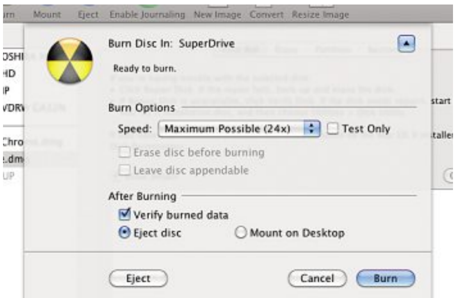
Encryption: none

Partitions: Single partition – Master Boot Record Partition Map

Image Format: read/write disk image

06 Work with disk images

To create a disk image, go to File > New > Blank Disk Image… or Disk Image from Folder…. To make a regular image, give it a name, choose where to save it and set the options below. With the image created, double-click it and it will mount on your desktop.


Mount
Eject
Enable Journaling
New Image
Convert
Resize Image
Eject
Cancel
Burn

Burn Disc In: SuperDrive

Ready to burn.

Burn Options

Speed: Maximum Possible (24x) ☐ Test Only

☐ Erase disc before burning

☐ Leave disc appendable

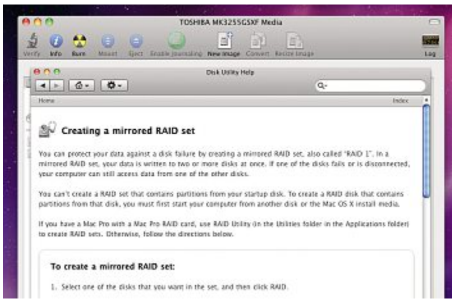
After Burning

☑ Verify burned data

● Eject disc ○ Mount on Desktop

07 Burn optical discs

To burn an image to a CD or DVD, right-click its DMG file in the left column of *Disk Utility* and choose **Burn** (if the image doesn't appear, go to Images > Burn… and browse your drive to find it. Pop a recordable CD or DVD in the drive, check the settings, and hit **Burn**.


TOSHIBA MK3255GSXF Media
Verify
Info
Burn
Mount
Eject
Enable Journaling
New Image
Convert
Resize Image
Log
Disk Utility Help
Home
Index

Creating a mirrored RAID set

You can protect your data against a disk failure by creating a mirrored RAID set, also called "RAID 1". In a mirrored RAID set, your data is written to two or more disks at once. If one of the disks fails or is disconnected, your computer can still access data from one of the other disks.

You can't create a RAID set that contains partitions from your startup disk. To create a RAID disk that contains partitions from that disk, you must first start your computer from another disk or the Mac OS X install media.

If you have a Mac Pro with a Mac Pro RAID card, use RAID Utility (in the Utilities folder in the Applications folder) to create RAID sets. Otherwise, follow the directions below.

To create a mirrored RAID set:

1. Select one of the disks that you want in the set, and then click RAID.

08 RAID basics

As we explained on the opposite page, there are a number of situations in which using RAID is useful. It's largely for power-users, and we haven't got space to go into detail here, but go to Help > Disk Utility Help and click **Using RAID Sets**. That should get you started. ●

Finder File Edit View Go Window Help
Sun 18:38 MacFormat
Applications
App Store
AppleWorks
Automator
Calculator
Chess
CleanMyMac
Dashboard
Dictionary
Dropbox
DVD Player
EyeTV
FaceTime
Font Book
Front Row
GarageBand
Google Chrome
Google Earth
iCal
iChat
iDVD
Image Capture
iMovie
iOS Development
iPhoto
57 items, 56.55 GB available
MacBook Pro

Make your Mac your own with our top tips for personalisation.

Set up a new Mac perfectly

What to do when you get a new Mac, and how to personalise further

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY:
Beginner

TIME NEEDED:
15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
Mac OS X

Take any two people's Macs, and they'll never look quite the same. We all have our personal tastes and whims, and the great thing about OS X is that you can alter the way it looks and works to suit yours.

When you first switch it on, you're presented with Apple's standard setup – the purple Aurora background, a set of apps in the Dock, plus a whole load of settings across the system that are set, by default, in a certain way. We're going to show you how to put your stamp on it, which will help speed up the way you work and play on your Mac.

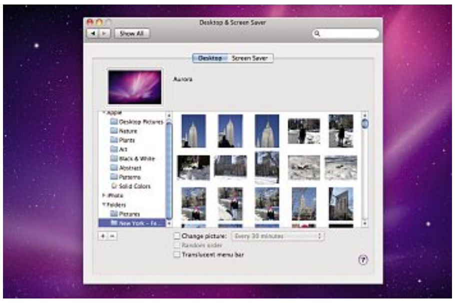
Your first port of call will be *System Preferences*, which you access through the menu. But that isn't the only place you can personalise you Mac. The key to many of the other options is the right-click, or, if you have a single-button mouse, hold ctrl and click the mouse button. This will pop up a little menu with options relating to where your mouse is at the time.

Once you've worked through our tips, take some time to look through the various *System Preferences* screens, particularly the ones in the Personal category. If you're not sure what any of them do, click them and look for the round pink button with the question mark. If you can't find a particular setting, remember the search bar in the top right corner, which will help you find the options you're after by highlighting the appropriate pane. You can often personalise individual apps when open by clicking the app's name in the menu bar, then Preferences (or pressing ⌘+,).

> *"We'll show you how to put your stamp on your Mac, and help speed up the way you work and play"*

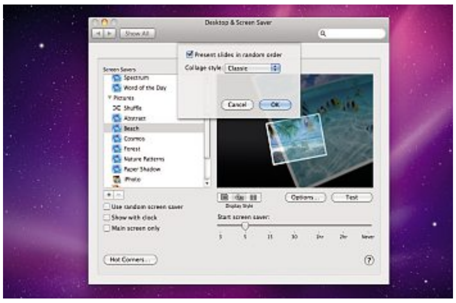
Let's go through the first things we do to personalise our Macs. Even if you've been using a Mac for some time, you may be surprised to find a hint or two in here that can help you make your Mac more efficient!
Laurence Cable

HOW TO / Personalise your Mac



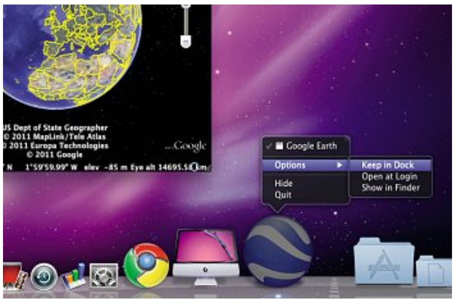
01 Change the desktop

First of all, let's alter the desktop background to something more personal. Go to System Preferences > Desktop & Screen Saver > Desktop. To use your own images, add them via the **iPhoto** entry, or click **+** and find the folder the picture is in.



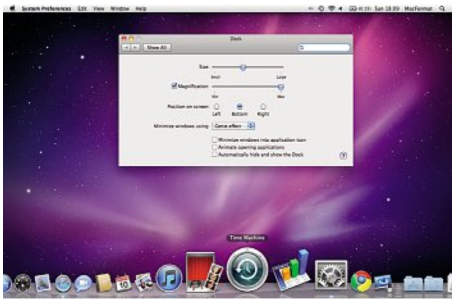
02 Pick a new screensaver

You can use photos as your screensaver or one of the options included in OS X. In *System Preferences*, click Desktop & Screen Saver > Screen Saver and choose from the list on the left. Set the delay before it starts using the slider at the bottom. Note the **Options** too.



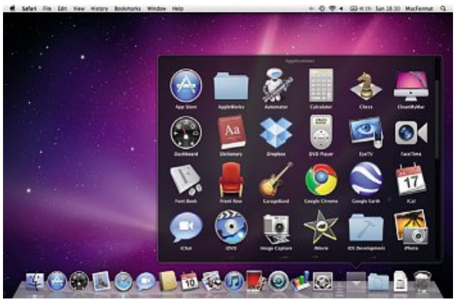
03 Apps in the Dock

Do you use all those apps in the Dock? Remove the ones you never use by dragging the icons off the Dock (this doesn't delete the app). Add those you use a lot by dragging their icons onto the Dock; if the app's running, right-click its icon and select Options > Keep in Dock.



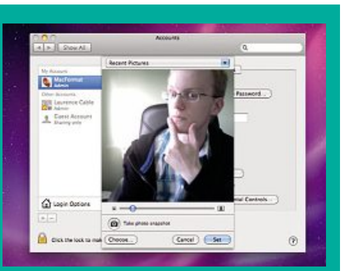
04 Alter Dock settings

Do bouncing icons drive you mad? Does magnification get annoying? Change the way the Dock behaves by going to > Dock > Dock Preferences…. You can alter size, magnification, and prevent apps from bouncing when opened by unticking **Animate opening applications**.



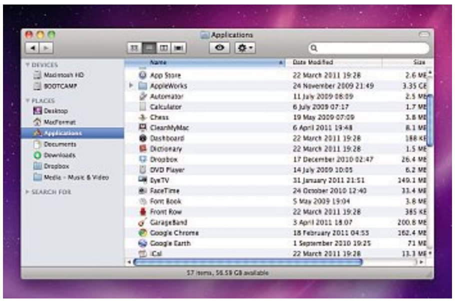
05 Folders in the Dock

You can't add folders to the left-hand end of the Dock – that's for apps only. But try dragging a folder to the area next to the Trash. Click it, and its contents will display as a **Fan**, **Grid** or **List**. We always put our apps and document folders here for easy access.



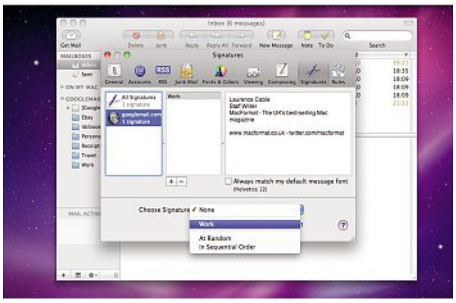
QUICK TIP

When you set up your user account, you'll have chosen an icon for it. You can swap this in the **Accounts** pane of *System Preferences*. Click the image by the **Change Password…** button. To take a photo using your Mac's camera, select **Edit Picture…**



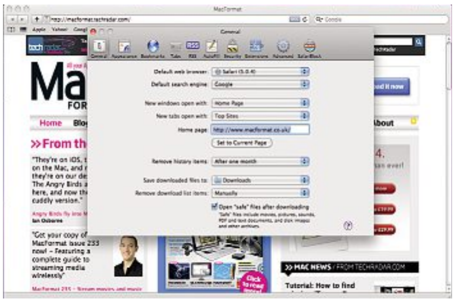
06 Customise the sidebar

When you open a *Finder* window, a sidebar appears on the left (if you don't see it, go to View > Show Toolbar and **Show Sidebar**). Drag frequently used folders here for quick access. The sidebar's contents also appear in most **Open** and **Save** windows.



07 Make an email signature

End emails with a signature: it could be your name, contact details or job title. Open *Mail* and go to Mail > Preferences > Signatures. Click the account you use on the left. Then click +, name the signature in the middle column and type in the area on the right. Select it below.



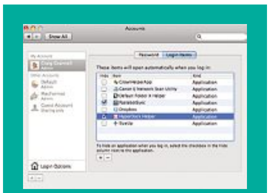
08 Swap your homepage

When you open a new *Safari* window, the Apple homepage pops up by default. To change this, go to Safari > Preferences > General and type the URL you want to use. Note the menus to determine what appears when you open a new window or tab. ●

>>ON THE DISC Find some related apps on the disc.

Get OS X 10.7 now!

Discover how to mimic some of Lion's features on your Snow Leopard Mac

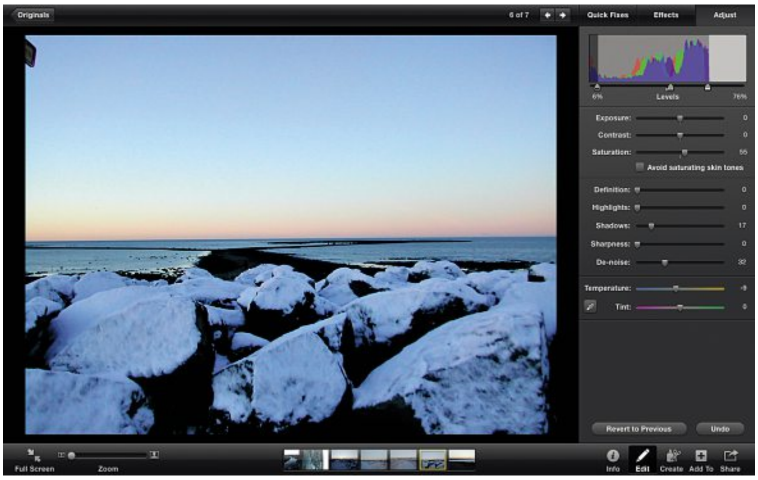

Accounts
Show All
Login Options

>>QUICK TIP

Should you find an add-on indispensable, add it as a login item, so it'll launch when you reboot your Mac. You can do this using the **Login Items** tab found in the **Accounts** pane of *System Preferences*.

The next major revision of Mac OS X is Lion. Due for release in summer 2011, it will introduce a number of new features, and, as always, leave anyone running an older system pining for what they cannot have. However, those of you running Snow Leopard can bring a little Lion to your Mac, with the help of free or affordable software add-ons.

You won't be able to incorporate everything from Lion, because some features are dependant on system-level architecture (such as iOS-like auto-save and resume, and document versioning), but many changes are more conceptual in nature and can be replicated to some degree by third-party software.

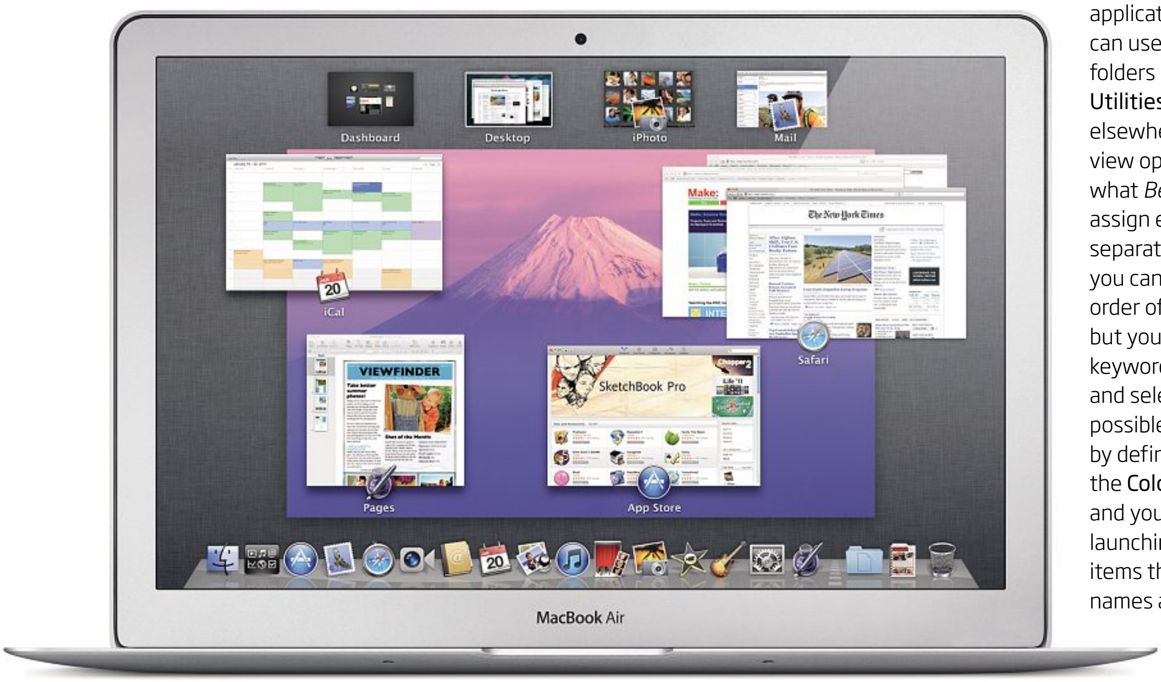

Originals
6 of 7
Quick Fixes
Effects
Adjust
Levels
Exposure:
Contrast:
Saturation:
Avoid saturating skin tones
Definition:
Highlights:
Shadows:
Sharpness:
De-noise:
Temperature:
Tint:
Revert to Previous
Undo
Full Screen
Zoom
Info
Edit
Create
Add To
Share

iPhoto '11 has a fullscreen mode that provides insight into Apple's interfaces in Lion.

Install a launcher

For example, one of the features Apple's making a lot of noise about is Launchpad, which 'gives you instant access to your apps'. Launchpad provides such access by welding an iOS-style launcher to your Mac, offering an at-a-glance page-based overview of everything you've installed. Naturally, you can also rearrange app shortcuts to suit.

In Lion, Launchpad gives you instant access to your apps. You can reproduce it.


Dashboard
Desktop
iPhoto
Mail
iCal
Safari
Pages
App Store
MacBook Air

Launchers aren't a new concept as far as the Mac goes, and there are several available solutions for providing button-based application launching (as opposed to using a Spotlight-like search field to filter a results list and then selecting an item). Granted, no third-party solution currently offers the elegance of Apple's Launchpad, nor its flexibility (application folders, dynamic app drag-and-drop) but, importantly, a couple at least provide a similar level of efficiency.

> *"Many changes are conceptual in nature and can be replicated to some degree by third-party software"*

The easiest alternative to get started with is *Bevy* (bergdesign, £5.99, Mac App Store). On launch, *Bevy* rifles through your Applications folder and populates its grid with applications you have installed. You can use the preferences to add other folders (such as Applications/Utilities, or application folders stored elsewhere on your hard drive), and view options enable you to merge what *Bevy* finds into a single grid or assign each folder's apps to a separate column. Unlike Launchpad, you cannot arbitrarily amend the order of application shortcuts in *Bevy*, but you can exclude items based on keywords or by ctrl-clicking an item and selecting Exclude. It's also possible to flag running applications by defining a background or stroke in the Colors section of the preferences, and you can filter the grid before launching anything: type a letter and items that include the letter in their names are highlighted.

If you want even more flexibility, *Overflow* (Stunt

Software, £8.99, Mac App Store) is a little closer to Launchpad. Unlike *Bevy*, it doesn't automatically populate its spaces with everything on your Mac – you merely get categories for pinned Dock applications and items. However, it's easy to create new categories and place items within; said items needn't be restricted to applications – you can drag documents and folders to *Overflow*. The walkthrough included in this feature shows you how to set up the application.

If neither *Bevy* nor *Overflow* suits you, because you don't fancy adding anything new to your machine, you can always rely a little more on the Dock. As you probably know, you can drag applications to the left-hand side of the Dock to 'pin' them there, ready for launch. (If an application's already open, you can ctrl-click and select **Keep in Dock** from the **Options** menu to pin it.) However, even with the largest Mac displays, the Dock's only good for pinning a couple of dozen apps at most, unless you're willing to make your Dock and its icons near-microscopic. To get around this limitation, drag your **Applications** folder to the right-hand side of the Dock. ctrl-click it and set **Sort by** to **Name**, **Display as** to **Folder** and **View content as** to **Grid**. This gives you a large, scrollable, icon-based grid; click an application to launch it, or use the keyboard to snap to an app by typing its name and then hit ↩ to open it.

Go fullscreen

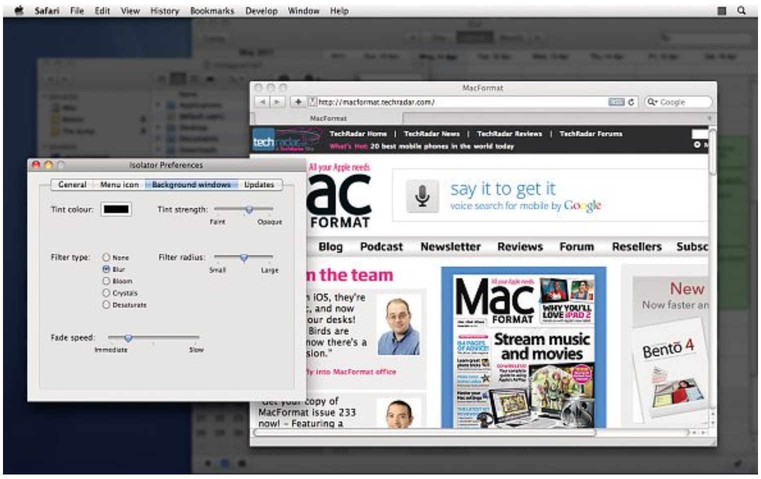
Another major change in Lion will be a greater emphasis on the use of fullscreen applications. Unlike on iOS, fullscreen mode won't be enforced – applications will still have windowed modes, enabling you to use, say, *Safari* alongside a word-processing package. However, should you want an application to fill the entire screen, that's exactly what it will do; not even the Dock or menu bar will be left showing on your screen.

Ultimately, this is about focus. On iOS, an iPad or an iPhone becomes a frame for an application, enabling you to get stuck into the task at hand, without distraction. Similarly, a proper fullscreen mode on the Mac puts you in a different frame of mind while working on editing images, creating music or video, or writing, compared to when you see other applications running. Put simply, fullscreen removes distraction and the temptation to be distracted.

For a taste of a Lion-style fullscreen mode, check out the latest *iPhoto*; available from the Mac App Store or as part of *iLife '11*, it has a dedicated fullscreen mode. A number of writing tools also offer a fullscreen mode, such as the latest versions of *Word* and *Pages*, and *MacFormat* favourites *WriteRoom* and *Scrivener*. Some design tools, such as *Adobe Photoshop*, also offer a fullscreen mode. And while web browsers are perhaps the most dangerous thing you have on your computer from a procrastination standpoint (they are almost anti-concentration applications), many of them have fullscreen modes. For example, in *Google Chrome* and *Firefox* you can use ⇧+⌘+F to toggle fullscreen mode, and in Opera you can do the same with ⌥+F11.

For applications that lack a dedicated fullscreen mode, you have to do things manually, which involves a combination of settings and third-party software. The first thing you'll want to get rid of is the Dock, which is a pretty big distraction with its shiny shelf. ⇧+⌘+D banishes it, but you can still access it by using the shortcut again or by moving your cursor to the foot of the screen. Next up, you need something that can

> *"A number of writing tools offer a fullscreen mode, such as the latest versions of Word and Pages, as well as WriteRoom and Scrivener"*


Safari File Edit View History Bookmarks Develop Window Help
Isolator Preferences
General Menu icon Background windows Updates
Tint colour:
Tint strength: Faint Opaque
Filter type: None Blur Bloom Crystals Desaturate
Filter radius: Small Large
Fade speed: Immediate Slow
MacFormat
http://macformat.techradar.com/

Isolator gives you a fullscreen mode, albeit one very different to the one in iPhoto '11.

HOW TO / Reverse your scrolling

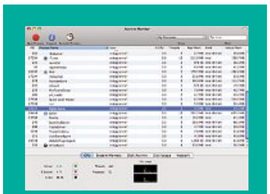
Some Lion changes are subtler than the likes of Launchpad, but are still based on iOS conventions. One of the biggest is the change to scrollbars. Aesthetically, Lion's scrollbars are minimal, only appearing when necessary, and there's a radical change to the behaviour of scrolling itself.

In Snow Leopard, scrolling using a mouse or trackpad has you effectively virtually dragging a scrollbar. In Lion, you're instead moving the page content. This is more intuitive from a usability standpoint, but counter to years of muscle memory, because dragging downwards moves the scrollbar up (as it does on an iPhone or iPad) rather than down. If you want to prepare for this change or you enjoy the iOS way and want similar scrolling behaviour on Snow Leopard, we recommend you install *Scroll Reverser* (**http://bit.ly/em0y2S**). This free application sits in your menu bar and reverses the scroll direction by default; to turn it off, simply uncheck **Reverse Scrolling** from the menu. You can also use its preferences to start the application at login and to hide the menu icon.

Scroll Reverser is On

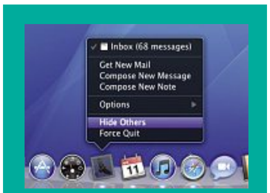
Your scrolling is now reversed!

Scrolling style messing with your head?



QUICK TIP

Some of the add-ons mentioned in this tutorial function as subtle background applications (no interface) or faceless applications (menu-bar-based); to quit them, you may need to use **Quit Process** in *Activity Monitor*.



QUICK TIP

For an ad hoc version of single-app mode, to temporarily banish distractions without third-party software, ⌘+⌥-click on a Dock icon. The app will come forward and all others will be hidden.

force apps to expand to fullscreen. By default, Mac OS X doesn't (yet) have such a control (unlike Windows) – the three controls at the top-left of each window are close, minimise and zoom. The last of those is often mistaken for a maximise control, but it in fact switches a window between a default and user size. Generally, Mac applications try to intelligently resize their windows to fit the content, but we want the option to force windows as close to fullscreen as possible, to eradicate distractions.

A free, stable add-on for changing the zoom button's behaviour is *Right Zoom* (http://macupdate.com/app/mac/30591/right-zoom). When activated, *Right Zoom* makes the zoom button increase a window to its maximum size, which means that if you've hidden the Dock, you'll only see the application you've zoomed and the menu bar. In *Right Zoom*'s **General** preferences, you can define a hot-key for triggering the zoom, and you can also use the **Maximise only when** option to retain the default zoom-button behaviour and only maximise when a modifier (such as ⌥) is held as you click.

Go split-screen

If you want *Right Zoom*'s functionality and a little more besides, you'd do well to consider *Cinch* (Irradiated Software, £3.99, Mac App Store), *SizeUp* (Irradiated Software, £8, http://irradiatedsoftware.com/sizeup), or *HyperDock* (Christian Baumgart, £6, http://hyperdock.bahoom.de). All these add-ons provide fullscreen zooming – *Cinch* by dragging a window to the top of the screen, *SizeUp* by using a system-wide user-defined shortcut, and *HyperDock* by using either method. These add-ons also enable you to snap windows to the left- or right-half of the screen, using similar actions. This can be a good way of working on a piece of writing alongside some research, but again without distractions, because the two perfectly aligned windows block out everything else.

Featured
Top Charts
Categories
Purchased
Updates
The Penelope Rose
MISHAP
PAINTR
City Secrets
New & Noteworthy
Quick Links

Although in theory a Lion feature, the Mac App Store runs quite happily in Snow Leopard.

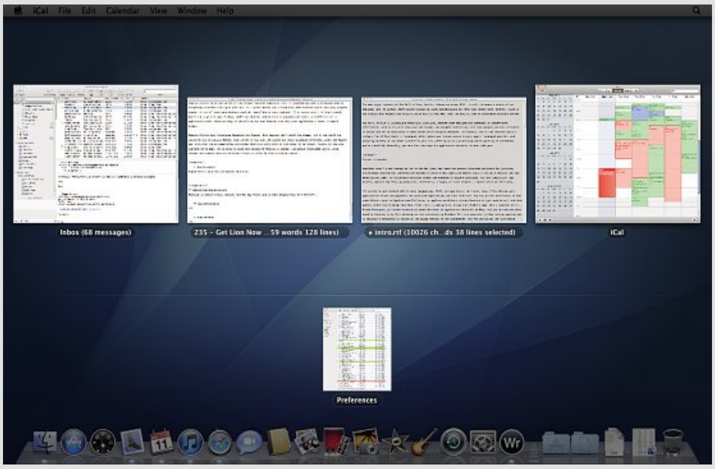
> *"Mission Control provides you with a bird's-eye view of everything currently running on your Mac"*

Not all applications are suited to fullscreen. While the likes of *GarageBand* work nicely with just the application window and a menu bar, *Mail* and *iCal* are a bit spacious in that form. We recommend having those in split-screen (using the likes of *Cinch*), but if you're now in that one-app-only frame of mind, install and use *Isolator* (Ben Willmore, donationware, http://willmore.eu/software/isolator). When *Isolator* is active, only the frontmost application is visible – others are hidden behind a tint of user-definable strength, colour and effect. A system-wide shortcut can be assigned to toggle *Isolator*, and anyone wanting a true single-app mode can check **Hide windows of other applications** in *Isolator*'s **General** preferences, to always hide

HOW TO / Find windows faster

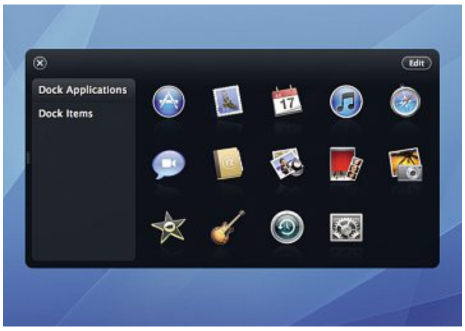
Mission Control is billed as one of the biggest features coming to Lion. It provides you with a bird's-eye view of everything currently running on your Mac. To a great extent, you already have this feature built into Snow Leopard anyway. To see all your open windows, prod the *Exposé* key on your keyboard (F3 on recent Macs). In Snow Leopard, you'll see a grid of open windows. ⌘+1 can then be used to sort them in alphabetical order, or ⌘+2 to sort them in app order. Alternatively, click-hold on any Dock icon to view only that application's icons in *Exposé*.

Mission Control also integrates *Dashboard* and *Spaces*; Snow Leopard can't match the former feature, but it can match the latter- if you're running *Spaces*, then invoke it and when the spaces are being displayed on-screen, press the *Exposé* key. Note that the aforementioned sort-order shortcuts still work in this mode. To be honest, judging by the Lion previews we've seen, we're going to miss Snow Leopard's version of *Exposé*. The simple grid-based layout looks cleaner and simpler than the relative clutter on offer in Lion's Mission Control.


Inbox (68 messages)
235 – Get Lion Now ...59 words 128 lines)
intro.rtf (10026 ch...ds 38 lines selected)
iCal
Preferences

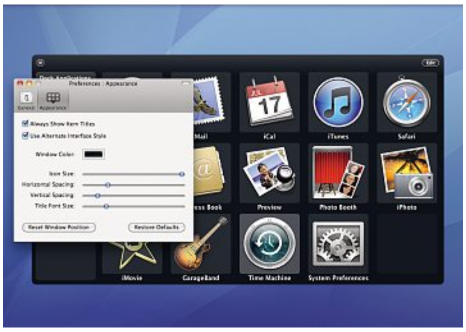
Exposé offers many purported Mission Control features to Snow Leopard users.

HOW TO / Use Overflow as a Snow Leopard Launchpad



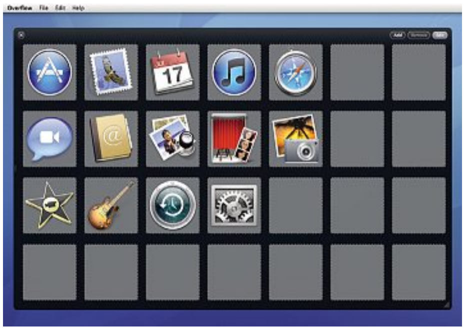
01 First launch

Install and launch *Overflow*. You'll see it includes two categories: **Dock Applications** and **Dock Items**. These will include, respectively, whatever you've stored on the left- and right-hand sides of the Dock. To launch/open an item, simply click it.



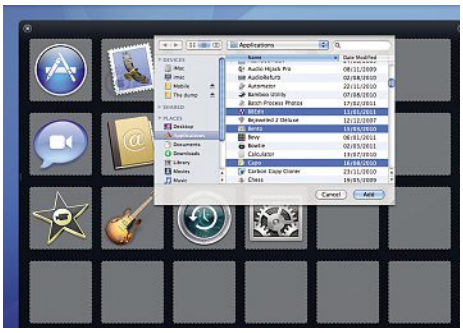
02 Amend preferences

In the preferences, use **General** to define a system-wide activation shortcut. Use **Appearance** to amend the icon size and other visual settings, including whether titles are shown. The alternate style shows item tile backgrounds in grey.



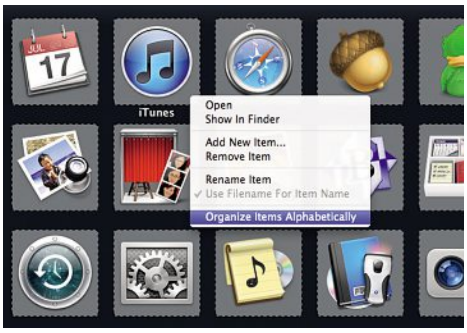
03 Resize Overflow

Click **Edit**. Resize the *Overflow* window by dragging the resize widget (bottom right) to the size of your monitor. Note that it resizes from the centre of the screen. You can also double-click the categories drawer to close it, if you only need one page.



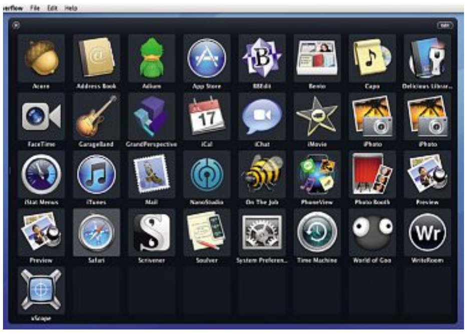
04 Add apps

Click the **Add** button. Navigate to your **Applications** folder, ⌘-click apps and click **Add**. If any aren't visible, reduce icon size via the preferences or move apps to another category. (ctrl -click the sidebar to make a new one.)



05 Re-sort apps

In **Edit** mode, ctrl -click to view the context menu; use it to reveal an item in *Finder*, or to organise items alphabetically. You can also drag and drop to rearrange items, but there must be space (items don't move if you drag over them).



06 Use Overflow

Press the shortcut defined in step 2 (or click *Overflow* in the Dock) and you'll see added apps (or items such as documents and folders). If you run out of space, add categories and keep the sidebar visible to switch between them.

everything but the active application. While this is very different to Apple's fullscreen apps in appearance, the concept is broadly similar.

Of the remaining Lion-on-Snow Leopard possibilities, Mission Control is explored elsewhere, as is a means of activating Lion's back-to-front idea about how trackpad scrolling should work. Other than that, major components that can be aped are application-based. One, the Mac App Store, is available as part of Mac OS X 10.6.6 or later – just update your operating system to that revision or later and select **App Store**... from the menu. Apple's also trumpeted a revised, streamlined version of *Mail*. This works more like the iPad version (in landscape mode), taking advantage of widescreen displays by placing the message list next to (rather than above) the preview pane. *Letterbox* (**http://harnly.net**) and *Widemail* (**http://widemailplugin.com**) are free/donationware plug-ins that attempt to mirror this setup, even combining columns on the emails list so that it more resembles the iOS version. (Note that with *Widemail*, we lost some settings on uninstalling it, so if you use it make a back-up of the file named **com.apple.mail.plist** from the **~/Library/Preferences** folder first.)

> *"Apple's trumpeted a revised, streamlined version of Mail. This works more like the iPad version"*

Like many of the add-ons explored in this tutorial, the widescreen *Mail* plug-ins get you 'not quite Lion' rather than Apple's latest and greatest, but that at least gives you a taste of what's to come, or enables you to experience something close to Lion's best bits, even if you're unwilling or unable to upgrade when the new operating system arrives.

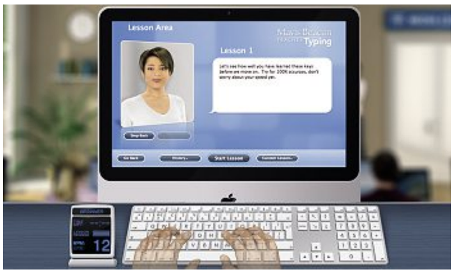
Craig Grannell

QUICK TIP

If you drag your **Applications** folder to the Dock, you can use it to launch apps, like Launchpad (although you cannot arbitrarily position apps).

Words: Dan Oliver

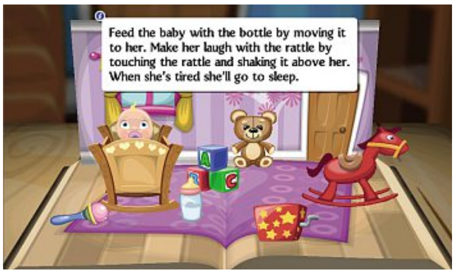
Top 10 education



2011 Mavis Beacon International Edition

£23.99 MacKiev

01 Mavis Beacon is the virtual queen of typing instruction, and this is her app. Set keyboard layout to British, and a rendered version of Mavis takes you through each step. There are no shortcuts – excuse the pun – to improving typing speed, but this app makes it fun. It's packed with features, such as the option to type out classic novels or play games.

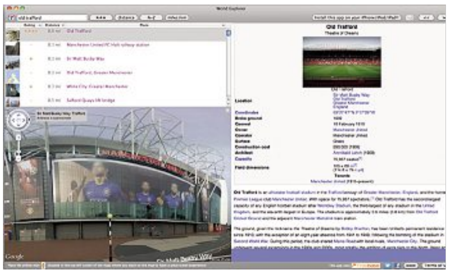

Feed the baby with the bottle by moving it to her. Make her laugh with the rattle by touching the rattle and shaking it above her. When she's tired she'll go to sleep.

Grimm's Rapunzel

£2.39 Ideal Binary

02 There are a number of book apps that go the extra mile and provide another layer of educational value above and beyond that of a reading aid: *Grimm's Rapunzel* is one such app.

As children work their way through *Grimm's Rapunzel* they are presented with simple related tasks and asked to carry them out in order (with positive feedback should they complete them successfully). Enchanting and educational! What more could you ask for?

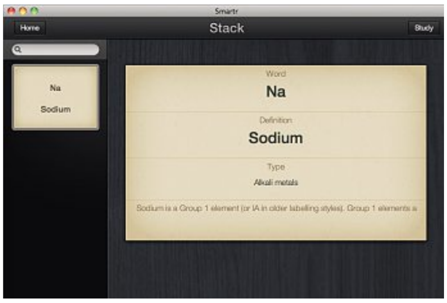


World Explorer

£FREE AudioGuidia

03 The simplest ideas are often the best, and the developers behind *World Explorer* have taken two great internet tools – in Google Maps and Wikipedia – and created a mashup app that enables you to read about a landmark or area while viewing its location (via a satellite map or Google's Street View mode). It's a fantastic learning aid, which we'd happily pay for were it to include clipping and archiving options for academic projects.

As it stands, it's a useful app for discovering interesting historical tidbits about locations, as well as reading ratings from fellow users.

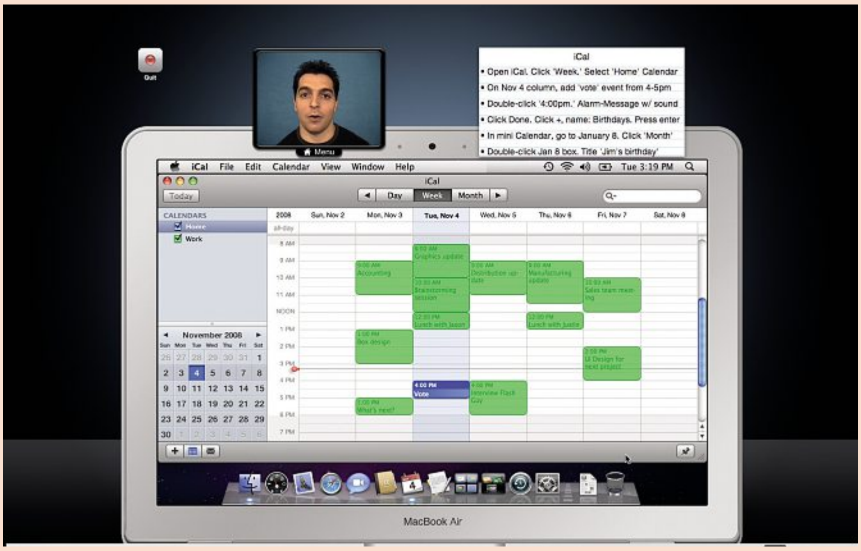


Word
Na
Definition
Sodium
Type
Alkali metals
Sodium is a Group 1 element (or IA in older labelling styles). Group 1 elements a

SmartR

£1.79 Barefoot Hackers/Ocean Observations

04 *SmartR* is a fantastic study aid for all those in education. You can create 'stacks' of study cards based on templates including Question/Answer, Picture, and Vocabulary. Imagine you're studying the periodic table of elements. You select New Stack, use the Vocabulary preset, and add a card for each element (which includes Word, Definition, Type and Notes). Once complete, you hit Study to be tested. *SmartR* will track performance, and tailor tests accordingly.


iCal
- Open iCal. Click 'Week.' Select 'Home' Calendar
- On Nov 4 column, add 'vote' event from 4-5pm
- Double-click '4:00pm.' Alarm-Message w/ sound
- Click Done. Click +, name: Birthdays. Press enter
- In mini Calendar, go to January 8. Click 'Month'
- Double-click Jan 8 box. Title 'Jim's birthday'

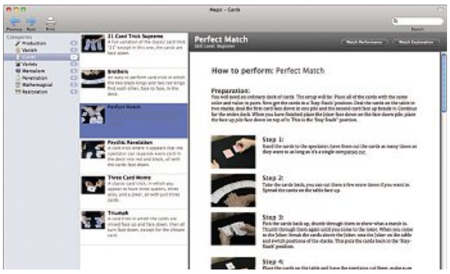
Learn the Switch to Mac

£1.19 It's About Time Products

05 Obviously, if you're thinking about making the switch to Mac, then *MacFormat* is your best source for advice, tips and inspiration. However, if you want a video-based learning aid for Mac OS X, then Saied Ghaffari is about as engaging and informative presenter as you'll get. The option to follow lessons via an in-app 'virtual Mac' seals the deal for this brilliant switching tool.

al Mac apps

We trawl the Mac App Store to find you can never learn too much…


Magic – Cards
Previous
Next
Print
Search
Categories
Production
Vanish
Cards
Variety
Mentalism
Penetration
Mathemagical
Restoration
21 Card Trick Supreme
Brothers
Perfect Match
Psychic Revelation
Three Card Monte
Triumph
Perfect Match
Watch Performance
Watch Explanation
How to perform: Perfect Match
Preparation:
Step 1:
Step 2:
Step 3:
Step 4:

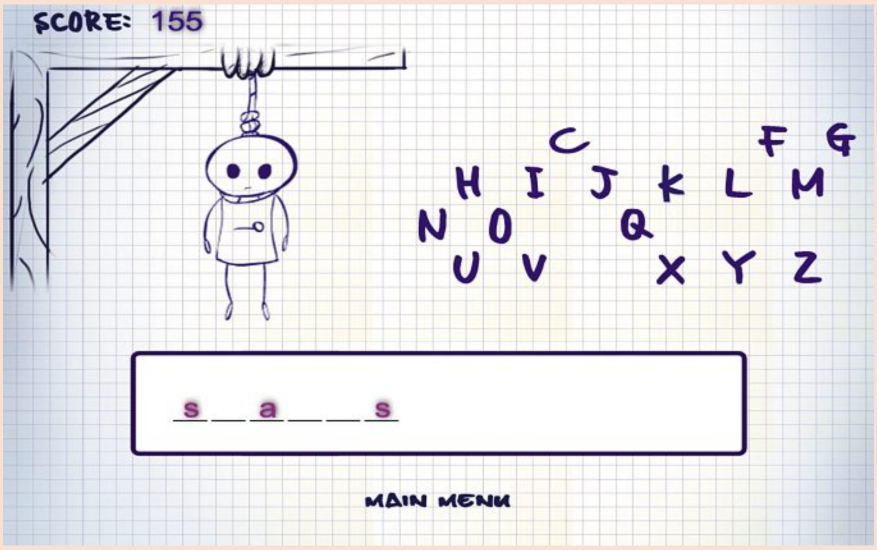
Magic!

£5.99 MacEnvy.com

06 It's not the most polished production, and we may be stretching the definition of education, but *Magic!* is a cracking introduction to the wonderful world of illusion and trickery.

You select from eight categories of magic, choose a trick, and then you get the option to read instructions, watch the trick in action, or see the video explanation. If you get so good that you exhaust the tricks supplied, you can make in-app purchases of the latest tricks and boost your beguiling sleight-of-hand arsenal. You can also bookmark your favourite tricks within the interface for quick access.

It's apps like this that get you kicked out of the Magic Circle!


SCORE: 155
C
F
G
H
I
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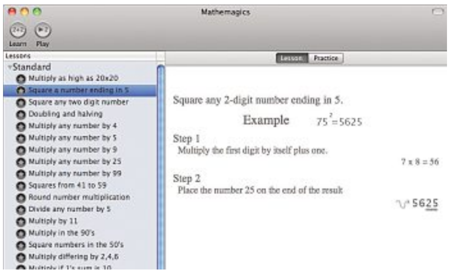
L
M
N
O
Q
U
V
X
Y
Z
s _ a _ _ _ s
MAIN MENU

Doodle Hangman Free

Free EnsenaSoft

10 There's nothing wrong with a bit of 'mild peril' when it comes to kids' games, which is a good job, especially when you consider the context of hangman (guess a word or someone gets strung up!). Thankfully, *Doodle Hangman Free* keeps things traditional, enabling you to choose between a one- or two-player game, select from a category, and then try and save a hapless soul with your word power.


Mathemagics
Learn
Play
Lessons
Lesson
Practice
Standard
Multiply as high as 20x20
Square a number ending in 5
Square any two digit number
Doubling and halving
Multiply any number by 4
Multiply any number by 5
Multiply any number by 9
Multiply any number by 25
Multiply any number by 99
Squares from 41 to 59
Round number multiplication
Divide any number by 5
Multiply by 11
Multiply in the 90's
Square numbers in the 50's
Multiply differing by 2,4,6
Multiply if 1's sum is 10

Square any 2-digit number ending in 5.

Example $75^2 = 5625$

Step 1
Multiply the first digit by itself plus one.

$7 \times 8 = 56$

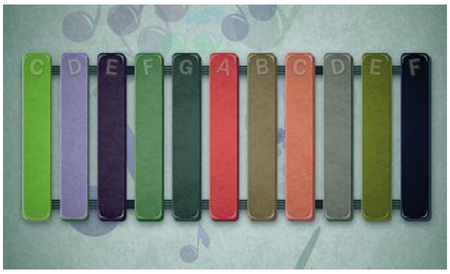
Step 2
Place the number 25 on the end of the result

5625

Mathemagics

£2.99 Blue Lightning Labs

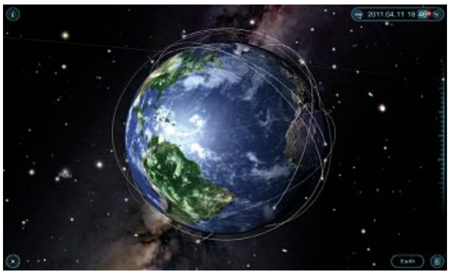
07 *Mathemagics* has a host of ingenious rules for mathematical calculations that enable you to complete sums in a fraction of the time it'd usually take. The idea of providing kids with maths 'cheats' – which most will be familiar with via video games – should appeal to both students and teachers (who can use *Mathemagics* to make lessons more engaging). We do think the interface could do with livening up, though. After all, maths can be fun!


C
D
E
F
G
A
B
C
D
E
F

CutieMelody

£Free CutieApps

08 As apps go, they don't get much simpler than *CutieMelody* from CutieApps. *CutieMelody* is a well-designed representation of a child's glockenspiel, which uses a circular cursor icon to illustrate the mallet used to strike the vertical bars of the instrument. Percussion instruments are a great introduction to music for kids, and with notes attributed to the bars in the app interface, it's a cinch for them to follow simple notation.


2011.04.11
Earth

SolarWalk

£1.79 Vito Technology

09 How do you accurately convey the sheer magnificence of the Solar System? Knowing Jupiter is 1,300 times bigger than the Earth is fine, but without context it's hard to imagine. With *SolarWalk*, though, you're thrust into a 3D representation of our Solar System, in which you can pan and tilt around planets and moons, zoom in and out at will, and access a host of information. This isn't just for aspiring astronauts. It's stunning.

Words: Ian Osborne **Illustration:** Bill McConkey

Become a gesture guru

Know a pinch from a swipe? We explore gestures on Apple's notebook and desktop range

Gestures make life easier. Pioneered in iOS and warmly welcomed by OS X users, Apple's multi-touch gestures are a little like keyboard shortcuts in that they augment rather than replace more traditional ways of interacting with your computer. But are you getting the most out of them? If you use a Mac notebook, a Magic Mouse or a Magic Trackpad, it's worth checking out everything that Apple's gestures can offer. They're very easy to use and – believe it or not – soon become second nature.

The first multi-touch trackpads in Apple's notebook range appeared in early 2008 with the original MacBook Air, before reaching the MacBook Pro range a month later. As well as two-fingered scrolling offered by earlier models, the new trackpad allowed three-fingered gestures too. This was made possible by an integrated controller chip much like the one in the iPhone and iPod touch – one that recognises inputs from more than two fingers.

> *"Over recent years, Apple has expanded its range of gestures, with three- and even four-fingered inputs"*

The current glass trackpad was first introduced with Apple's late 2008 MacBook and MacBook Pro refresh. It replaced the earlier, smaller trackpad that had a separate button at the foot of the pad. Now, the entire trackpad is the button, which you can press anywhere to click. Some find it awkward at first, largely because they rest their thumb on the foot of the pad where the button used to be, but it soon proves useful. The new trackpad is 39% bigger and continues to incorporate multi-touch gestures earlier MacBook trackpads.

Over recent years, Apple has expanded its range of gestures, with additional three- and even four-fingered inputs being introduced with new notebook models. The full range of gestures was brought to earlier multi-touch MacBooks with Snow Leopard, but this only works if the trackpad has the integrated controller chip.

The Magic Mouse arrived in October 2009, adopting a completely new look over the traditional mouse controller. The entire upper surface of the Magic Mouse functions as a multi-touch sensitive pad. Instead of physical buttons, the whole body acts as a clicker, and like the MacBook's trackpad, you can achieve right mouse-button clicks simply by holding down the ctrl key or by configuring the mouse to recognise whether you pressed the left or right side.

The centre of the mouse can be used as a scroll wheel, but there's no middle click set up for you out of the box. The Magic Mouse can recognise multiple points of contact, and although only two-fingered gestures are officially catered for, its range can be greatly expanded using third-party software. (Note, however, that a Magic Mouse requires OS X 10.5.8 or higher.)

»

HARDWARE ADD-ONS

Magic Mouse

£57 www.apple.com/uk/magicmouse

Apple's Magic Mouse was the first device to bring gestures to the desktop Mac. It's beautifully designed, takes two AA batteries, and connects to your Mac using Bluetooth. The Magic Mouse is bundled with all current iMacs and Mac Pros, and can also be bought separately online or at your local Apple retailer or Apple store. We recommend that you first try the Magic Mouse in-store so as to be sure it's the multi-touch device for you.

Magic Trackpad

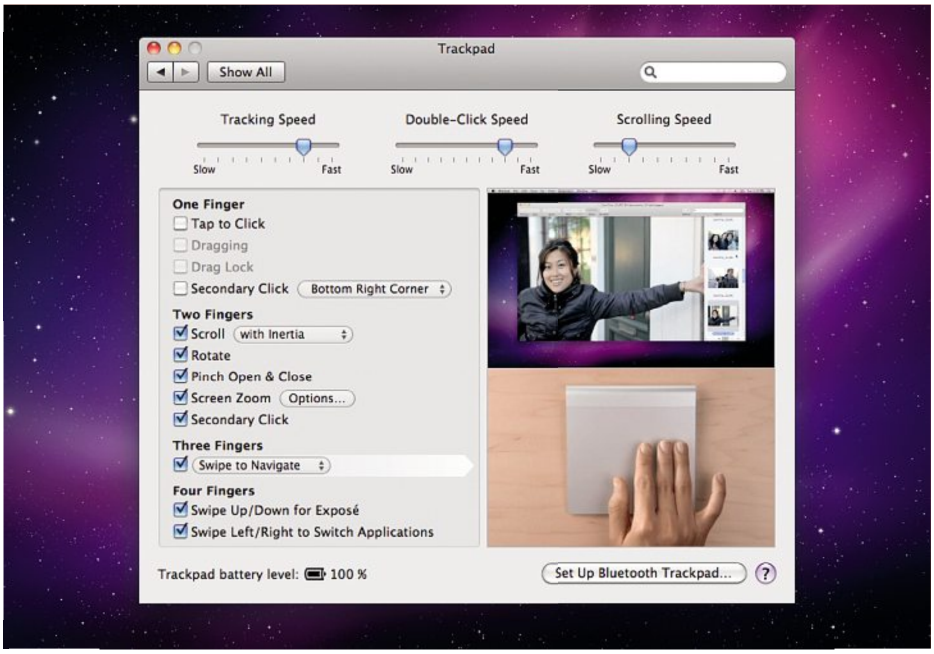
£60 www.apple.com/uk/magictrackpad

Also connected through Bluetooth and powered by two AA batteries, a Magic Trackpad is more versatile than a Magic Mouse. It's nearly 80% larger than the trackpad built into current Apple notebooks, and gives access to the full range of multi-touch gestures in OS X Snow Leopard. Made from aluminium with a wear-resistant glass surface, the Magic Trackpad looks great next to an Apple keyboard.

Wacom Bamboo

FROM £40 http://bit.ly/fe8b7H

Wacom's Bamboo series of low-cost graphics tablets incorporate a range of multi-touch gestures. You can get a touch-only Bamboo tablet for as little as £40, but if you want a pen as well (which you should), they start at £75. The Wacom Bamboo recognises all universal gestures, and now offers four-finger input recognition too.



Tracking Speed: Slow – Fast
Double-Click Speed: Slow – Fast
Scrolling Speed: Slow – Fast

One Finger
☐ Tap to Click
☐ Dragging
☐ Drag Lock
☐ Secondary Click: Bottom Right Corner

Two Fingers
☑ Scroll: with Inertia
☑ Rotate
☑ Pinch Open & Close
☑ Screen Zoom: Options…
☑ Secondary Click

Three Fingers
☑ Swipe to Navigate

Four Fingers
☑ Swipe Up/Down for Exposé
☑ Swipe Left/Right to Switch Applications

Trackpad battery level: 100 %

Your Magic Mouse, trackpad or Magic Trackpad preference pane offers video guides to demonstrate your gesture options.

The Magic Trackpad finally brought the versatility of Apple's notebook trackpads to the desktop Mac user. Released in July 2010, it's around 80% larger than MacBook trackpads. It's designed to match the Apple keyboard, and can actually be connected to one using a third-party peripheral called MagicWand (see http://bit.ly/dKuRae). Like the notebook trackpad and Magic Mouse, it can be configured via its preference pane. (OS X 10.6.4 or higher is required.)

Engage multi-touch

To configure your multi-touch device, under the menu, select **System Preferences**. If you're using a Mac notebook with a multi-touch trackpad, or have a Magic Mouse or Magic Trackpad connected, there will be a preference pane used to configure it. Open the **Trackpad** or **Mouse** pane for a checklist of the various gestures available to you, and hover your pointer over a specific gesture to see a rolling video showing how it's accomplished. The Trackpad preference pane is functionally identical whether you're using a MacBook or a Magic Trackpad.

> *"You can use the Rotate gesture in Preview or iPhoto to quickly turn an image clockwise or anticlockwise"*

With the **Tap to Click** option on, tapping the surface of the trackpad without pressing down and clicking it serves the same function as a click. It can lead to irritating accidental inputs, which is probably why it's disabled by default. If you enable it by checking its tick box, you can then activate the **Dragging** gesture, whereby double-tapping and holding the second tap lets you drag items around your desktop, just like clicking and holding. **Drag Lock** means a dragged item is released with another double-tap.

The single-fingered **Secondary Click** is also disabled by default. When activated, clicking on the bottom-right of the trackpad is equivalent to clicking the right mouse button, or ctrl-clicking using a single-button mouse. Left-handers can slave the secondary button function to the bottom-left corner if they wish.

The trackpad's two-, three- and four-fingered gestures are all enabled by default, but you can switch off inputs you keep triggering by mistake. **Scroll** lets you place two fingers on the trackpad and scroll your active window vertically, horizontally and diagonally, giving the same 360-degree scrolling as a Mighty Mouse's trackball. When you lift your fingers, scrolling slows to a gradual stop if **With Inertia** is selected, while **Without Inertia** stops it instantly. Most people prefer scrolling **With Inertia**, as it's more instinctive.

You can use the **Rotate** gesture in a compatible app such as *Preview* or *iPhoto* to turn an image clockwise or anticlockwise. It's achieved by placing the thumb and forefinger on the trackpad an inch or so apart, and twisting them in a circle. By placing thumb and forefinger on the trackpad together and moving them apart, you can zoom in, with the opposite gesture zooming out again. It's the equivalent of pressing ⌘+ + and ⌘+ − on the keyboard. These gestures are termed **Pinch Open & Close** on the preference pane (but we usually refer to them as 'pinch' and 'unpinch').

As you probably know, you can zoom into and out of your Mac's screen by holding ctrl and using the mouse wheel. With **Screen Zoom** active, you can do this by holding ctrl and swiping up or down with two fingers on a trackpad, or one finger on a Magic Mouse. You can modify this behaviour using the **Options** button. Experiment, and see what suits you best.

Finger food

The **Secondary Click** option listed under **Two Fingers** gives the functionality of a second mouse button by clicking with two fingers on the trackpad. It's active by default, but you can switch it off if you prefer to use a one-fingered corner-click as your second mouse button. Of course, there's nothing to stop you activating both options, or disabling them both and using ctrl-click as your secondary mouse button. If the **Tap to Click** option is active, **Secondary Click** becomes **Secondary Tap** and can be activated simply by touching the trackpad with two fingers, with or without clicking.

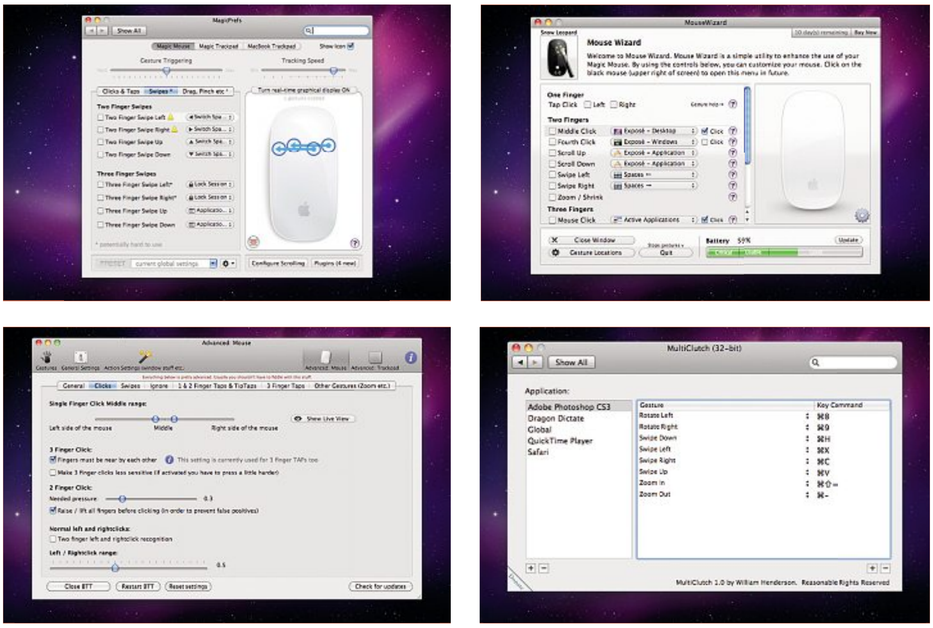
By default, swiping the trackpad with three fingers is used for navigation, just like pressing the 'Previous' and 'Next' buttons in *Finder* and other applications. If you wish, you can use it for dragging instead, whereby moving the pointer with three fingers on the trackpad is similar to doing so with the primary mouse button held down – for selecting text, moving windows and icons around your desktop or selecting a portion of an image, for example.

Four fingers on the trackpad offers up *Exposé* options. Swiping up moves all open windows off the desktop (like F11), and a downward swipe shows all open windows (F9).

There are third-party applications available that greatly enhance the gesture capabilities of your MacBook trackpad, Magic Trackpad and especially your Magic Mouse. The most popular is *MagicPrefs* (http://magicprefs.com), a free download that brings many trackpad gestures to the Magic Mouse and fixes its rather slow tracking speed. It also configures a trackpad with additional (optional) multi-fingered taps and clicks. For $5.99 (£3.60), *JiTouch2* (www.jitouch.com) is similar, and adds character gestures, whereby you activate a function by drawing a letter on a trackpad or Magic Mouse.

Other third-party, gesture-enhancing applications available include *MouseWizard* (£3, http://bit.ly/g5Mn96), *BetterTouchTool* (free, http://bit.ly/bdCYzG) and *Multiclutch* (free, http://wp.me/p9uL4-1y).

> *"There are third-party apps available that enhance your MacBook trackpad, Magic Trackpad and Magic Mouse"*


Gesture-enhancing third-party apps such as MagicPrefs, MouseWizard, BetterTouchTool and MultiTouch are cheap or free.

Third-party applications and peripherals are increasingly taking advantage of gestures. *Adobe Photoshop*, for example, has been gesture-capable since *CS4*. If you prefer a graphics tablet to a mouse or trackpad, Wacom's Bamboo series gives you multi-touch gestures (see opposite). Elsewhere, *Remote Conductor* is an iOS app that lets you use your iPad as a gesture controller for your Mac.

Digit enhancement

Although daunting at first, it's surprising how quickly gestures become second nature. Open your preference pane and find a gesture you've previously ignored, and make a point of using it at every opportunity. You'll soon see what we mean. Gestures take an more central role in the forthcoming OS X 10.7 Lion, so there's never been a better time to get used to them. »

» TECHNOLOGY OF TRACKPADS / The road to multi-touch gestures begins here

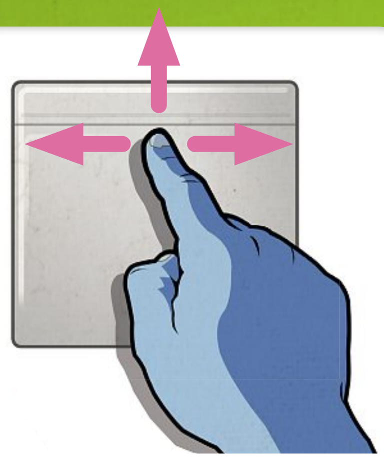
George Gerpheide loved the Mac, but he wasn't all that keen on its mouse. The then-PhD student felt it was okay as an input device, but far from perfect. He hit on the idea of a control system based on a series of tightly packed circuits. A human finger passing over them would affect the electric field, allowing its position and movement to be registered. It was the birth of capacitive touch technology.

Gerpheide filed for patent in June 1992, and was eventually granted in April 1994. Gerpheide branded the technology GlidePoint and marketed it through the Cirque Corporation, a company he founded in 1991. The first GlidePoint product was a touch pad about the size of a pack of cards that you plugged into your PC instead of a mouse. After a 1997 revamp, it was cleverly rebranded as 'The Cat' and is still sold under this name today.

Apple was an early adopter. The PowerBook 500 series, introduced in May 1994, was the first notebook to use a capacitive touch pad instead of a mechanical trackball. Today, capacitive touch-pad technology is everywhere. As well as forming the basis of Apple's multi-touch notebook trackpad, Magic Mouse and Magic Trackpad, it's also used in handheld and tablet devices such as the iPhone, iPod touch and iPad. Capacitive screens are also used for interfaces on peripherals such as printers.

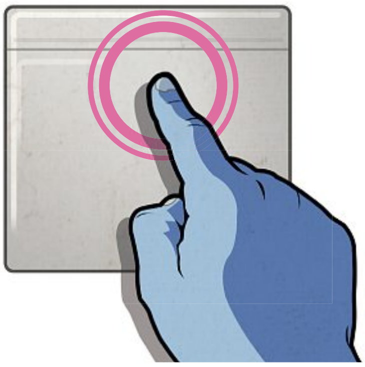
But why are capacitive controllers so popular? Dr Gerpheide says it's because "they rely on the world's oldest pointing device: the finger. Everyone knows how to use it!"

Your Mac gest



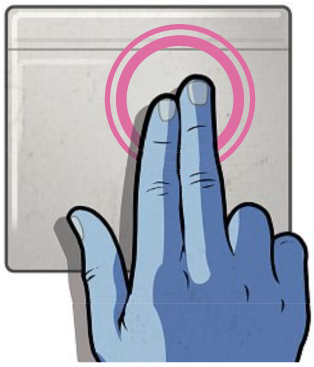
01 Point, click and drag

Control your pointer by placing a finger on the trackpad and moving it. Set the speed at which the pointer moves using the **Tracking Speed** slider in the **Trackpad** preference pane. By holding a click and moving the pointer, you can drag windows and icons on the desktop, or select a screen or window.



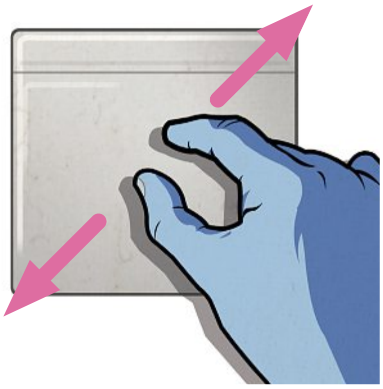
02 Clicking and double-clicking

You can click and double-click on a trackpad just as you would with a mouse, for example, clicking on an icon to highlight it or double-clicking to open. Adjust the trackpad's double-click speed in *System Preferences*. Click on **Trackpad** and adjust the **Double-Click Speed** slider.



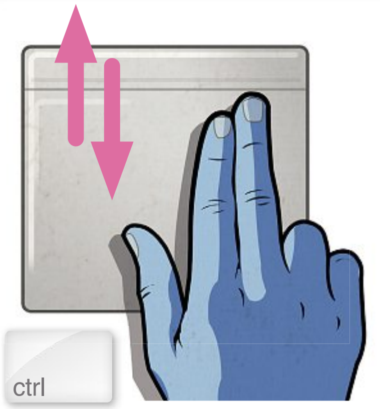
03 Two-finger click

By default, clicking (or tapping if **Tap to Click** is activated) with two fingers is the equivalent of pressing a secondary mouse button. In the *System Preferences* pane for **Trackpad**, you can disable two-finger taps and assign a secondary mouse click to a corner of the pad, or disable both and use ctrl-click.



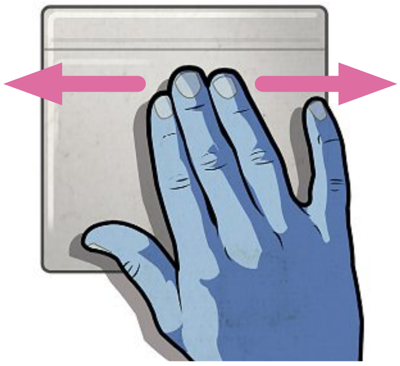
06 Pinch/Unpinch

On the desktop or in *Finder's* Icon or Cover Flow views, this gesture enlarges or shrinks your icons. With Quick Look active or when using QuickTime Player, it activates and exits fullscreen mode; in *Safari* and *Mail*, it enlarges and shrinks the font size; in *Preview*, it zooms in and out of images.



07 Screen zoom

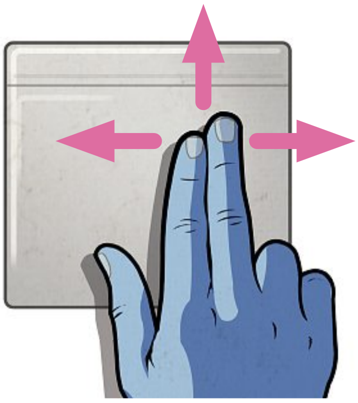
With a standard mouse, you zoom in and out of the screen by holding ctrl and using the mouse wheel. On a trackpad, hold ctrl and drag two fingers up or down. On a Magic Mouse, move one finger up or down the surface of the mouse while holding ctrl. Also see the **Screen Zoom Options** preference.



08 Three-finger swipe

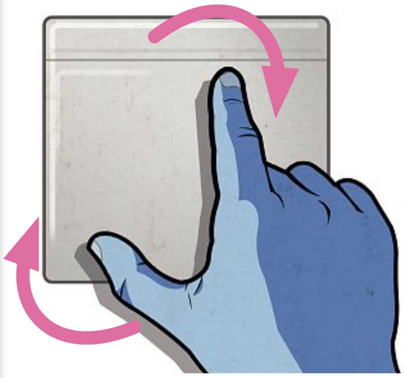
In *Finder*, swiping left or right with three fingers takes you forwards and backwards through a folder tree; in *Safari*, it takes you to the next or previous web page; in *Mail*, it navigates through emails and in *Preview*, through images; it also traverses dates in *iCal*, and navigates through Quick Look items.

ure guide



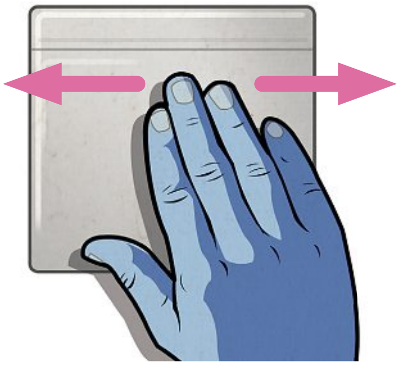
04 Two-finger scroll

By placing two fingers on your trackpad and moving them up, down, left and/or right, you can scroll your currently open window through 360 degrees – useful when web surfing or typing a letter. You can also use left/right gestures to speed through a *QuickTime* video or *iTunes* album covers.



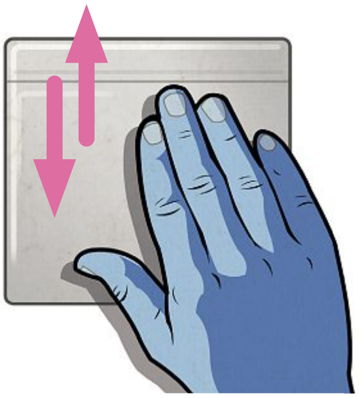
05 Rotate

Place your thumb and forefinger on the trackpad then twist them clockwise or anticlockwise. Use it in *Preview* and *iPhoto* to rotate images – handy if you're looking at pictures that aren't correctly orientated. **Rotate** can be tricky at first, but with a little practice, you soon get the hang of it.



09 Four-finger swipe (left/right)

Swipe left or right with four fingers to open the Application Switcher. Repeat this gesture in the opposite direction to close it again. With the Switcher open, move the highlight left/right through the apps list using two fingers and ↵ to select, or click with the pointer.



10 Four-finger swipe (up/down)

Four-fingered upward/downward swipes give you *Exposé* functions. Swiping upwards with four fingers hides all current windows, clearing the desktop (also F11). Swiping down with four fingers shows all active windows (as does F9).

LION / Gestures to come

OS X 10.7 Lion, due for release in the summer of 2011, is set to include some interesting new multi-touch gestures. Like everything in Lion, it's all subject to change.

LaunchPad, Lion's iOS-like application launcher, can be opened by putting four fingers on the trackpad and bringing them together. According to the Trackpad preference pane, this gesture is known as a four-fingered pinch. Unpinching with four fingers, or 'spread' as it's called on the preference pane, takes you back to the desktop, or if you're already on the desktop, hides all windows in a similar manner to pressing F11 on the keyboard.

Mission Control is a forthcoming Lion feature that brings together *Exposé, Spaces* and *Dashboard* into a single feature. It can be launched using a three-fingered upward flick. A downward three-fingered flick gives you a single-app *Exposé*, currently activated with F10. Horizontal three-fingered swipes summon the *Dashboard* and cycle through active *Spaces*.

Tap to Zoom has found its way to Lion courtesy of iOS. By moving the pointer to a specific part of a web page and double-tapping with two fingers, you zoom in on that section – just the thing for reading small print. Repeat the gesture to shrink it back to normal size. Unpinch to Zoom is similar to Tap to Zoom, but the pinching gesture gives greater control over the degree to which the web page is zoomed. Place your thumb and forefinger on the trackpad and move them away from each other – the page will enlarge. To shrink it back to size again, reverse the gesture.

Lion is to include a wealth of new gestures that seamlessly integrate into your OS experience.

Dashboard
Desktop
iPhoto
Mail
iCal
MacBook Air

Q&A

● HINTS & TIPS ● TROUBLESHOOTING ● EXPERT ADVICE ● ESSENTIAL INFO

>> MEET YOUR Q&A EXPERT

Whatever your Mac-related problem, from misbehaving MacBooks to withering wireless, Luis Villazon can help.

>> ASK LUIS A QUESTION

Got a problem with your Mac? Then why not send your queries to Luis at **macformat.helpline@futurenet.com** and see if he can help.

"Can you connect a Freeview box to a new iMac?"

Q **We are going to buy an Apple iMac (21.5-inch, 3.06GHz). We've seen that the iMac has a large display and were wondering if a Freeview box could somehow be connected to the iMac to enable us to watch television on it.**

Duncan Ritchie

A Taking the video signal from your Freeview box isn't a great idea because it's an analogue feed designed for a SCART connection to an ordinary TV. This means that your digital TV signal would be converted to analogue then converted back to digital in your Mac. That's wasted processing and also reduces the picture quality. Better is to simply use a USB Freeview receiver for your iMac. The EyeTV DTT by Elgato is about £46 on Amazon, for example.

CRICKET WORLD CUP 2011
BBC NEWS 15:51
MacBook Pro

A USB Freeview tuner lets you receive TV on your Mac. Use your existing aerial cable if you prefer.

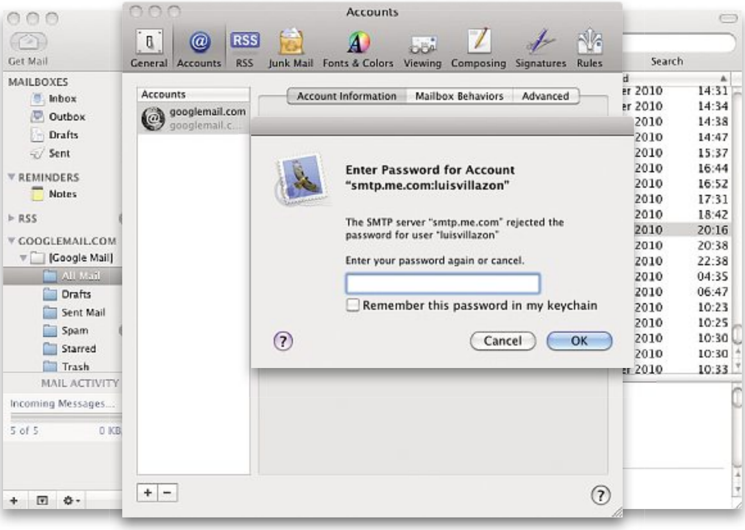
"Mail keeps asking for a password I already gave it…"

Q **We have owned an iMac since February 2010, and it has been brilliant compared with our old PC. Except for email, that is. Our internet provider is enta.net. My wife and I each have a user account on our iMac, both with our own passwords, but the problem is only on my account. A relative recently helped me create a second email account on my iMac and the problem has afflicted both of my mail accounts, but again not my wife's.**

At some point after opening *Mail* - maybe a minute, maybe an hour - something kicks me offline for that email account, but usually only for the purposes of receiving email. Typically a warning triangle appears next to my mailbox, with an exclamation mark in that triangle. Other times, I may get a triangle but with a squiggly line in it. And yet on other occasions I get the message 'The POP server for… rejected the password for user david01'. Frustrating!

This is happening up to 20 or 30 times a day. Can you please help?

Dave Ryden


Accounts
General
Accounts
RSS
Junk Mail
Fonts & Colors
Viewing
Composing
Signatures
Rules
Get Mail
MAILBOXES
Inbox
Outbox
Drafts
Sent
REMINDERS
Notes
RSS
GOOGLEMAIL.COM
[Google Mail]
All Mail
Drafts
Sent Mail
Spam
Starred
Trash
MAIL ACTIVITY
Incoming Messages...
5 of 5
0 KB
Accounts
googlemail.com
googlemail.c...
Account Information
Mailbox Behaviors
Advanced
Search
Cancel
OK

Enter Password for Account "smtp.me.com:luisvillazon"

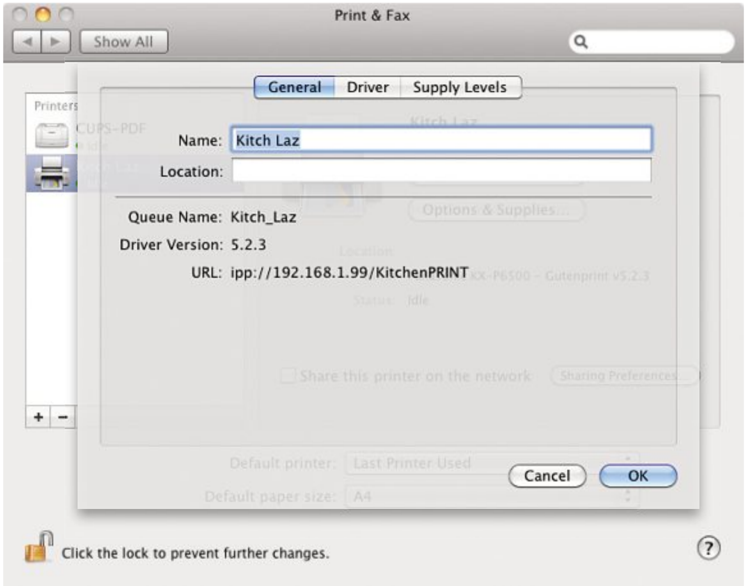
The SMTP server "smtp.me.com" rejected the password for user "luisvillazon"

Enter your password again or cancel.

☐ Remember this password in my keychain

If you're constantly pestered for a password, your Mail account settings may be corrupted.

A I would tackle this problem by starting with something that works. Clearly Mrs Ryden's account is receiving email correctly, so what



Name: Kitch Laz
Location:
Queue Name: Kitch_Laz
Driver Version: 5.2.3
URL: ipp://192.168.1.99/KitchenPRINT

There are lots of reasons for network printing to fail, but check the queue name isn't blank.

happens if you create another email account on her user account for *your* email address? If that works, the problem is either a corrupted permissions file or possibly some strange port setting you're using on your particular account. Try creating a new user account for yourself and set up both your wife's and your own email accounts in *Mail*. Make sure all the preference settings in Mail > Preferences > Accounts > Advanced match the settings your wife is using on her own user account. That should have you receiving email again.

"Our networked printer always pauses in action"

Q I have a problem that's driving me insane. I have a 24-inch 3.06GHz iMac, with OS X 10.6. I also have an HP Photosmart printer connected to an AirPort Extreme via USB, so, in theory, the wife's MacBook can print whenever she wants it to and so can I. During printing, however, the printer suddenly goes into 'pause' mode. I have to 'resume' and it prints the document all over again.

What on earth could be causing this and how can I stop it?

Fergul McClean

A I swear, the pain and suffering that accompanies networked printing is (likely) similar to childbirth. In a million years, when all other technology has melted into invisibility behind an intuitive and harmonious interface, and everyone has forgotten about primitive concepts such as protocols and network addresses, a few tortured souls will still be kept chained in a dungeon and required to maintain a ludicrous level of technical mojo, just so the rest of us can print successfully across a network.

Unfortunately, that's still a million years into the future. Right now, *all* of us need that much mojo. Here's what I can tell you: your printer is fine. The AirPort Extreme is also fine and so are all your Macs. If this is anyone's fault, it's probably Snow Leopard's, because this sounds like the occurrence of a weird interaction between the CUPS printing system and the network printing protocols.

Have a look in *System Preferences* and click the Options and Supplies button. Check that you have something entered for the queue name; blank queues can sometimes get freaked out. Also, try deleting the printer definition from preferences and adding it anew. Sometimes simply recreating it exactly will be enough, other times you may need to use a different protocol. Don't ask me why. This isn't because one protocol 'works' and the others don't. It just seems to be the change that is the important thing. So if you are using Line Printer Daemon, try Internet Printing Protocol and vice versa. I have no real idea why this helps – consult me in a million years, perhaps.

»

Down on distribution

Bill Gallop

Apple ought to have Mac OS X Lion ready for us to purchase and install by the summer. However, one question is: how will it be sold? The Mac OS started as something you got for free from an Apple Centre, then it was on purchased floppy disks, then CD, then DVD. Through each change you have always been able to get hold of the OS in the previous version.

So will Mac OS X Lion be the first version to be distributed online? The Developer Preview is supplied through the App Store and the next version of *Final Cut Pro* will be distributed the same way, so there is a chance that when Lion becomes final, the main way to buy it will be through the App Store; but will you also be able to get it on DVD as well?

The App Store works well. It's easy to find, buy or reinstall software. However, what Apple hasn't done yet is make it work for larger businesses, including education customers, since the licence either allows one person to use the App on any computer or all students/employees to use the App on a single computer. Larger businesses need to be able to buy a license allowing them to install a single copy on all the Macs they use. If Apple makes volume licensing through the App Store work then the corporate adoption of Macs and iOS should increase dramatically.

> *"As more software follows the online distribution model there is potentially less money to be made by the dealer…"*

If Mac OS X Lion becomes the first volume operating system to successfully be distributed through a web store and Apple can get the volume licensing sorted it will only be a matter of time before others follow suit. However, the downside is as more software follows the online distribution model there is less money to be made by the dealer, since a sale of Creative Suite can bring in more profit than the iMac it's used on. Unless, of course, that dealer is Apple themselves. Less profit per sale means less investment in staff training and consequently less knowledgeable sales and technical staff. The result being fewer Value Added Resellers and Macs mainly being available at a growing number of Apple Stores or big-box electrical retailers. While Apple Stores are good, so is choice. Apple will only tell you the Apple-approved way. Value Added Resellers that remain will need to charge more for consulting and services and will need to sell more to keep profitable. Not so great for the customer after all…

Bill is Mac Solutions Consultant for Equanet (www.equanet.co.uk). Each month he will share his knowledge with you, from upgrading your operating system to the advantages of RAW files.

>> QUICK TIP

If you hear a strange crackling sound, check that it isn't coming from *Outlook 2011*. The default sound when there are 'No New Messages' is indeed such a crackle and extremely annoying. However, it can be simply switched off or changed in *Outlook's* preferences.

David Black, via email

"How can I get iPhoto '11 to ignore EXIF data?"

Q **In *iPhoto '09*, photos appeared in the order of when they were put into *iPhoto*, from first to most recent. Now in *iPhoto '11* images are placed in the Library according to dates stated in EXIF. Thus new images (if dated in EXIF) appear by date, somewhere within the total Library.**

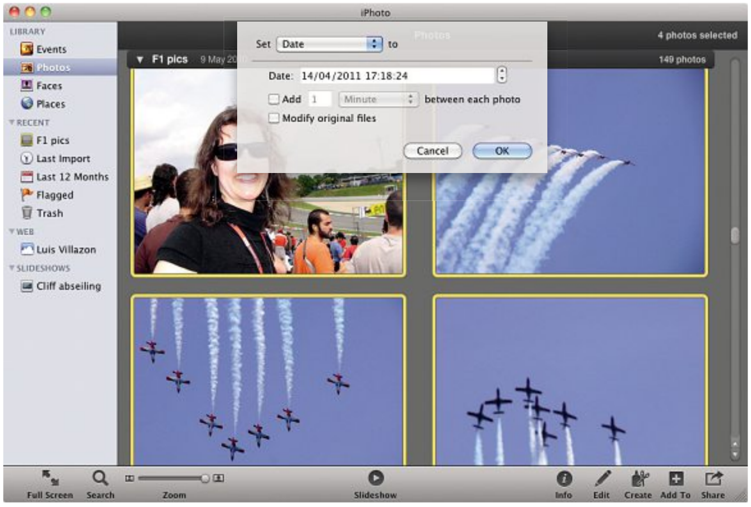
I understand I can change the date by going to Last Import, but doing this for every image copied (those with EXIF data) is very inconvenient, involving checking the Library to see if the image is copied as the last entry; if not, going to Last Import > Photos > Adjust Date and Time, and entering month, day, year and so on.

How do I make *iPhoto '11* disregard the EXIF data?

Quince Diamond

A My girlfriend sometimes tries to guess whether I want proper coffee or just instant. But I'm quite fussy and have very strong opinions about which is the right drink for the circumstances. Now, she is human and very clever and knows me well and has access to lots of contextual information about my day so far, and even *she* sometimes gets it wrong. There is simply no way that something as dumb as a computer program can know what you want to do. Yes, there could be an option to ignore EXIF data, and another to supply a default date of your choosing when EXIF data isn't present. But every extra preference setting adds complication to the program. And *iPhoto* has to be easy to use or else most of its value is lost. Apple made a decision that EXIF dates will override the import date, and provided a way to change the date of individual photos or batches of them, for the rare occasions where this isn't appropriate. You are unlucky enough to belong to the slim demographic that slips through the cracks of the available customisation options.

You can't do it, is what I'm saying.



Set Date to

Date: 14/04/2011 17:18:24

☐ Add 1 Minute between each photo

☐ Modify original files

It's difficult if not impossible to stop EXIF information influencing iPhoto's data ordering.

"Three quarters of my backup has disappeared"

Q **Having had a problem which required reformatting the hard drive, I used the LaCie backup software (that came with the hard drive) to back up my home folder just to be on the safe side. But when transferring files back again after reformatting, less than a quarter of the files in *AppleWorks 6* are reinstated. It's in alphabetical order as far as C and then nothing after that. I've heard there may be invisible/hidden files but I don't know how to find these.**

Richard Thornley

>> MACFIXIT TIPS / Maintaining SSD drives in OS X (Part 1)

As their prices fall and capacities increase, SSD drives are becoming a more popular option, not only for laptops but also for consumer and pro desktop systems. Apple began offering SSD drives in MacBook Air systems in 2009, but now you can get them as a CTO option for nearly all Mac configurations. These drives offer numerous benefits over older mechanical ones, including the use of less power, less heat generation, and reduced potential for mechanical damage. But a main reason for their increased use is much faster performance when compared with the average mechanical drive.

Even though performance is a major plus to these drives, there are a couple of situations that can result in degraded SSD drive performance on Macs. The main reason for this has to do with the requirements needed for these drives to write data, where unlike mechanical drives, the SSD storage media needs to be in a ready or 'empty' state before it can reliably accept data.

Freeing blocks

When data is deleted from a drive, the system does not remove the data itself, and instead just frees the blocks to be overwritten by modifying the drive's index and directory files. In mechanical drives this makes no difference because the drive can easily write over used blocks, modifying them to contain the new data in one sweep. In SSD drives, however, the blocks that still contain unused data will need to be properly erased and set to a ready state before they can accept new data. This procedure is done 'on the fly' as the blocks are used, but it does take some overhead that will cut into performance.

New SSD drives are shipped with their storage blocks in a ready state, and as a result the drives are very fast; however, as the drive's blocks get progressively filled through use, the number of blocks that are left in the 'ready' state will drop until eventually all writing processes by the system will have to wait for the drive to first reset the blocks being used. The performance will not necessarily make your system crawl, or even drop to the speed of mechanical hard drives (especially for second-generation SSD drives), but may be notably slower than the expected performance.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

A Backing up just your documents onto a memory stick or a CD is acceptable as a better-than-nothing strategy, but when you're reformatting your disk, there's no excuse for not using something a good deal stronger. This isn't an insurance policy backup – you're erasing everything on the disk, so a) you can guarantee that you will need the backup to work, and b) you have time to make sure it does work. *Time Machine* or a complete, bootable disk image is the best method, but at the very least take the time to go through your backup and verify that everything that should be there, is.

What about your data? Viewing hidden files is quite straightforward; see the step-by-step guide overleaf for some ways of doing this. Much less obvious is how your documents could have magically become hidden, by themselves. I think this is probably a bug in LaCie's software. I've heard of files getting misidentified as executable files during the backup process, for example. If the files turn up when you do a Spotlight search for invisible files, you may just need to correct the file extensions. Otherwise, if you have any folders that the LaCie software appears to have restored but they seem to be empty, try copying them within your hard disk (by ⌥-dragging the folder). I don't quite know why this should help, but anecdotally it seems to.

»MACFIXIT TIPS / Maintaining SSD drives in OS X (Part 2)

To combat performance degradation, manufacturers and various OS developers are including 'garbage collection' routines that will slowly reset unused blocks on the drives in the background when the drives are not being accessed. These routines include the 'TRIM' and 'Secure Erase' ATA commands that, if supported in the drive's firmware, can be triggered by a software routine to perform the garbage collection routine on the drive.

While Apple has included SSDs as options in its systems for a couple of years, the support for these garbage collection routines has only been implemented for the latest MacBook Pro systems, and only for SSD drives that are shipped with the systems. This means that if you purchase a third-party SSD drive that supports TRIM, OS X will not use it. To date, the most universal method for clearing up and reconditioning SSD drives in OS X has been to perform various erase routines:

1. Formatting the drive

One option people resort to is to format the entire drive by first backing it up using *Time Machine* or a cloning utility, and then using *Disk Utility* when booted off an alternative volume to partition the drive and erase it by writing zeros to disk. After this is done, restore the backup to the drive.

2. Erase free disk space

Another option similar to the first is to use *Disk Utility*'s 'erase free space' option to write zeros to unused portions of the drive.

3. Third-party solutions

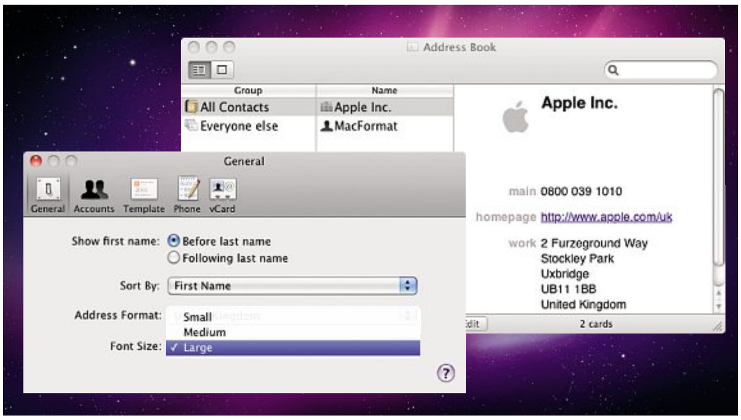
The use of *Disk Utility* is not the most optimal solution, especially on systems that do not already support TRIM, so for better results you can use a tool like 'DiskTester' to perform a 'recondition' routine on SSD drives, which should force the use of TRIM on the unused sections of the drive.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

"How can I enable larger fonts for Address Book?"

Q I've been an Apple user since the days of IIe. My question is: how does one change the font for the *Address Book*? There's no preference to permit a change, and I find it difficult to read the default font... alas, as an aging user.
Harold Grinstaff, Florida

A Well, there isn't a way to do this in the cut-down address book that's built into *Mail*, but the *Address Book* application proper (the one with the @ sign on its icon) does have an option for small, medium and large fonts in its preferences. Unfortunately, 'large' is still pretty small on a 27-inch iMac. If you're still struggling to read what looks to be about 16-point type, then I think it's time to fully confront the frailty of age and enable Zoom in *System Preferences*' Universal Access. You can trigger this on a keystroke or ⌥+scroll wheel and it's pretty fast to bounce in and out.



Apple Inc.
main 0800 039 1010
homepage http://www.apple.com/uk
work 2 Furzeground Way
Stockley Park
Uxbridge
UB11 1BB
United Kingdom

Show first name: ● Before last name
○ Following last name
Sort By: First Name
Address Format:
Font Size: Small / Medium / ✓ Large

When the large font setting in Address Book is no longer enough, enable the Zoom option.

"Not all scanners are equal in Snow Leopard's eyes..."

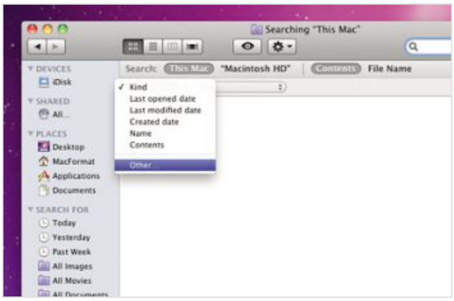
Q After reading Ian Osborne's article 'Plug in and use any scanner' (*MF230*) I immediately plugged in my Tevion 3200, only to find it's not compatible with Snow Leopard. A quick look on the internet reveals that mine is not the only scanner not recognised by the latest Mac OS. The scanner works fine with my PC. How can I get it to work with Snow Leopard?
Will Rome

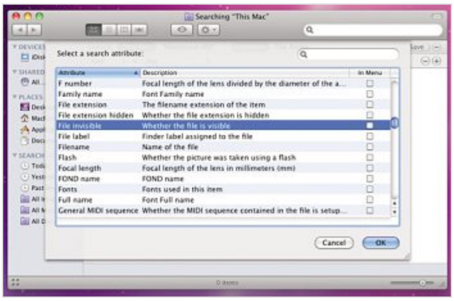
A Okay, 'plug in and use *almost* any scanner', then. The Tevion 3200 is an old scanner and an obscure one. Tevion doesn't even make scanners anymore, let alone drivers for them. It's an annoying fact of life that scanners hardly ever physically break, but scanner *drivers* are just about the most likely thing to fail when a new OS rolls around. If scanning is a crucial part of your workflow, retain an old Mac or PC as a scanning platform. Or else resign yourself to forking out for a cheap scanner every two years. »

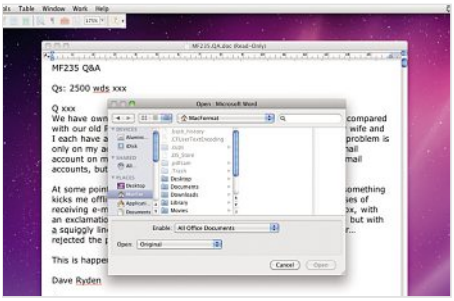
»QUICK TIP

If you're in the habit of sharing links with friends over email, the fastest way is to hit ⌘+⇧+I in *Safari*. This will open a new message in *Mail* with the URL of the current page already pasted into the message.

HOW TO / Find invisible files







01 Show all

Use the *Terminal* console to show hidden files by typing **defaults write com.apple.Finder AppleShowAllFiles TRUE** and then **killall Finder** but you can also search using File > Find or pressing ⌘+F to open the search dialog.

02 Search criterion

Click the **Kind** drop-down list and change it to **Other…** (don't click the **Any** list, the **Other** item there does something quite different). On the list that appears, choose **File invisible**. Now set the second drop-down list to **Invisible Items**.

03 Keyboard shortcut

To perform a partial name search, simply add another search term for **Name** and **contains**. The spotlight search box will only find words that begin with your search text. You can also hit ⌘+⇧+. to show hidden files in any **Open** or **Save** file dialog. ●

QUICK TIP

Holding down the ⌘ key when you click an item in the sidebar of *Finder* (**Documents**, say, or **Pictures**) will open a new window with that folder showing, rather than changing the current window to that folder.

"An ExpressCard issue is causing a kernel panic"

Q **Having eventually decided to go up to the 17-inch MacBook Pro to get the ExpressCard port that my old 15-inch had, then using the *Migration Assistant*, and also upgrading to *Final Cut Pro Studio 3* and *Avid MC5*, I got down to testing my shiny new system. First thing I got was a major kernel panic and a complete shutdown. I traced this to the Griffin eSata ExpressCard that I was using with two WD drives formatted as mirrored RAID. All the media for my previous *FCP* and *Avid* projects are on drives paired in RAID, so this is of major concern. Why, oh why, has Snow Leopard caused this problem?**

Neill Jongman

A It's actually caused by the Silicon Image SiI3132 drivers, which are used in most eSATA ExpressCards. These drivers are identified by Apple as broken by Snow Leopard and if you run an upgrade install of 10.6, they will be moved to the Incompatible Software folder. This will prevent the kernel panics but it still won't let you access your RAID drives and if you perform a clean install of 10.6 and then add the ExpressCard, you don't even get that.

Whether it's the responsibility of Apple to make sure that no new version ever breaks legacy drivers, or whether it's up to manufacturers to release timely updates to keep step with each new OS, is a matter for the theologians and philosophers. (Remember that the 'point' of Snow Leopard was to improve performance by streamlining the code base). The facts are that Apple isn't willing or able to fix it and Silicon Image won't even release driver updates to end users. They have a beta driver for Snow Leopard but it doesn't support RAID yet. For now, your options are to either get a new eSATA card that uses the JMicron driver (such as the Sonnet Tempo Pro) or switch out your drives to USB or gigabit Ethernet enclosures.

MACFIXIT TIPS / Maintaining SSD drives in OS X (Part 3)

Keep in mind that of these three options we highlighted overleaf, only the last one will truly 'recondition' the drive. The first two will write zeros to the drive, which will fill the media with data and not leave it in a 'ready' mode unless the system already supports TRIM. As a result they may even cause some drives to report 0KB available to the OS, which can cause booting issues.

Since TRIM support in OS X is relatively new, it's likely being limited in scope for now, and will sooner or later be expanded to support all SSD drives; however, if you would like to enable TRIM support in your system, there is an option to do it with *TRIM Support Enabler* (**http://bit.ly/gmww4p**), which installs a modified drive kernel extension to allow TRIM to work. After applying the patch you should see a line that says 'TRIM Support: Yes' in *System Profiler* when you select your drive under the Serial-ATA section.

If you wish to try using *TRIM Support Enabler*, keep in mind that modifying kernel extensions in OS X may cause kernel panics and otherwise destabilise the system. Unless you're experiencing persistent and notable performance issues with your SSD drive, it may be best to keep the drive as is. If you do run a utility, be sure it's a program that can execute the TRIM command to reset the drive to a proper "ready" state.

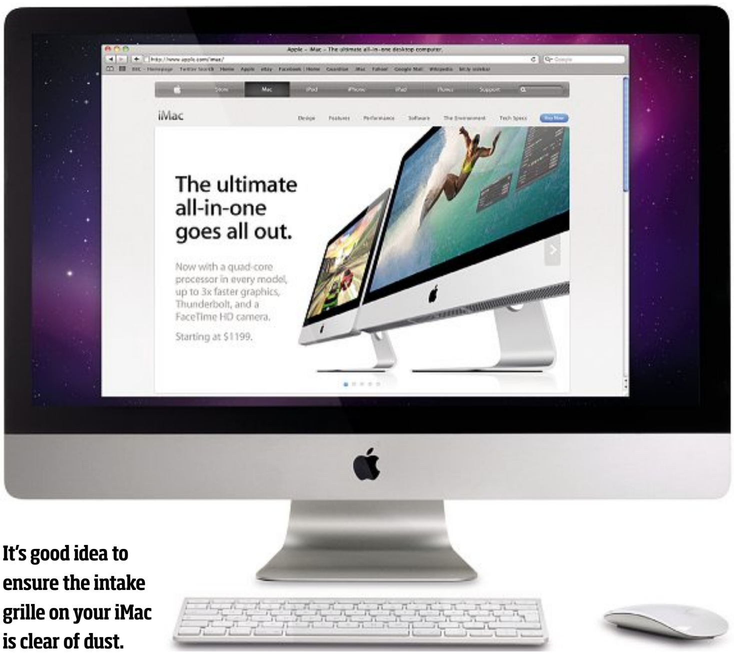
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

MacFixIt, founded in 1996 by Ted Landau, has grown into the premiere destination for users seeking resolutions to bugs and conflicts. Visit **www.macfixit.com** for the latest Mac information.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh

"I'm an avid BlackBerry user – dare I risk a Mac?"

Q **I'm on the verge of purchasing my first Mac. The design, quality, interfaces and my iPod experiences make that an easy option. But (and I know I'm not**


The ultimate all-in-one goes all out.
Now with a quad-core processor in every model, up to 3x faster graphics, Thunderbolt, and a FaceTime HD camera.
Starting at $1199.

It's good idea to ensure the intake grille on your iMac is clear of dust.

alone in this) I am a committed BlackBerry user and have a great deal of calendar, email and contact information which I need to sync with other computers – including my corporate PC office system. I'm content to keep my music and phone separate.

So, what options are available to me? Do I commit to Mac or wish for 'what could have been'?

Bill Lindsay, Newport-on-Tay, Fife

A I think you're safe enough to commit. The BlackBerry desktop app for the Mac enables you to sync your phone with both PC and Mac, and on the Mac it will sync with *Mail*, *iCal* and *Entourage*. See http://bit.ly/fNypw9 for more information.

"Beach-balling on my Mac has become an issue"

Q My 24-inch Intel iMac seems to be really unstable recently. It's never been particularly reliable but it's just getting worse and worse. Sometimes I will just be browsing in *Safari* or organising photos in *iPhoto* and the spinning beach ball will appear and stay there until I turn it off completely. Restarting sometimes helps but that stupid beach ball is back before long. Do I need to reinstall Leopard or is it time for a new Mac?

Giles King-Smith

A Probably neither. I think your iMac is overheating. Google 'smcfancontrol' and download it. This will give you a temperature readout on your menu bar. If you find that the beach-balling happens with temperatures in the high 40s or 50s, then we're onto something. Drag the fan sliders all the way up to maximum and wait till the temperature comes down to the mid 30s. Does it seem more reliable now? Check the circular air intake on the back of the iMac. If this is clogged with enough dust to stuff a small duvet, then the chances are that your Mac just needs a bit of a clean. You can remove the dust from the intake grille yourself easily enough, but if there's a lot of dust there, then probably there's a generous coating of even finer dust inside that made it through the filter. You can look up the procedure for opening up the case of your iMac on the web but if it looks too daunting, have it cleaned at an Apple Store or authorised service centre. In any case, make sure you don't hoover the dust away because static charge from vacuum nozzles can damage the motherboard. Just blow it clean with good old-fashioned lungpower.

If dust isn't the problem it may be that the temperature sensor for the CPU or hard disk has disconnected and isn't reading the right temperature to adjust the fan speed correctly. This is a simple job but, again, it's probably one for the repair centre. ●

On the forum

Help and advice from readers

Q I've downloaded a new type font for use in *MS Word* for Mac and hopefully other Mac word-processing apps. Where do I save this font to so that I can use it, please?

mcf_Miqs Join Date: May 2008 Location: Mid Bedfordshire Posts: 566

A Either drop it into Home > Library > Fonts or double-click the font file and *Font Book* should offer to install it for you. *Font Book* is Apple's own font management utility and is found inside your Applications folder.

mcf_MacOS10 Join Date: Oct 2005 Location: Manchester, UK Posts: 2,480

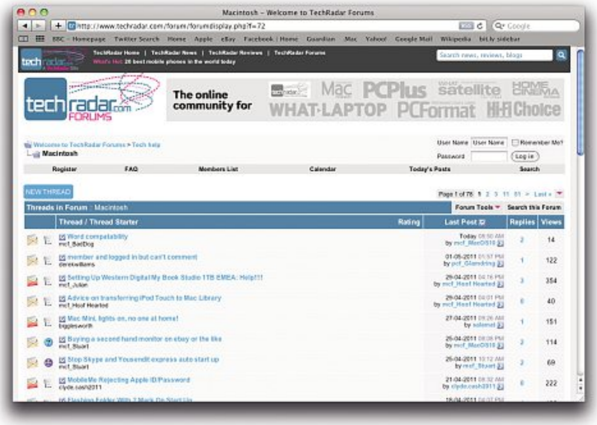
Q I have recently been getting an unusual freeze and screen message on my Power PC iMac. A dark grey box appears informing me that I need to restart my iMac by holding down the power button. The message is in English, German, French and Chinese and doesn't appear to resemble the 'normal' Apple message. After restarting, the unexpected shut down dialog box appears. It is a Power PC G5 iMac running OS 10.4.11. Any thoughts on causes, solutions and remedies would be much appreciated.

mcf_alexburton Join Date: Jun 2005 Posts: 53

A That's a kernel panic, and is usually (but not always) a result of a hardware fault. Now, that could be as simple as a faulty RAM module or incorrectly seated Airport Card, or as expensive as a logic board failure. It could even be software that's added a system extension (.kext) file.

To see if it's software, try doing a Safe Boot – restart with the ⇧ key held down. This disables third-party system extensions temporarily. If all is well, it may be a software clash – I'd try doing an Archive & Install of OS X if that's the case.

If the Safe Boot still has the kernel panic message, then it's more likely hardware. Have you got the original system install disc? If so, follow the instructions printed on it to boot into Hardware Tests. Usually, this involves inserting the DVD and restarting with the D key held down. Run the 'Extended Tests' and see if anything is reported.



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"Once you've untethered yourself, you'll never want to go back to wires"

WIRELESS SPEAKERS GROUP TEST P108

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Reviews

● HARDWARE ● SOFTWARE ● iPHONE APPS ● SHAREWARE ● GAMES

Ian Osborne
Reviews Editor

There's no doubt about the quality of Apple's iPad 2, but should you get a Wi-Fi-only model or the 3G version? How often are you likely to use it away from a Wi-Fi network? Would it be cheaper and more practical to ignore the built-in 3G option, and tether a Wi-Fi iPad 2 to a MiFi or your iPhone?

Ultimately, it's up to the individual to decide whether the 3G iPad 2 is worth the extra £100 it costs over the Wi-Fi-only version, but our new Deputy Editor Rob Mead-Green's review of the 3G model over on page 87 might help.

We cover a couple of excellent creative packages over in the software section too. On page 93, Rod Lawton raves about *Ohanaware HDRtist Pro*, a low-cost application that brings HDR photography to the masses. Jenny Phin takes a look at *Chronos iScrapbook 3.2*, which lets you put together exciting digital scrapbooks without all that messy glue and paper. But is it still fun? Find out on page 95.

Finally, after all the hype, can Valve's *Portal 2* live up to our expectations? According to Andy Dyer, it can. See our full review on page 100.

>> OUR LOGOS

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Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

>> APPLE DESKTOP

Apple iMac 21-inch 2.5GHz

£999 Under-the-hood upgrades give Apple's all-in-one desktop Mac a real performance boost.

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Apple, inc
www.apple.com/uk

SPECIFICATIONS

Processor: Quad core 2.5GHz Intel Core i5, **RAM:** 4GB (2x2GB), **Hard disk:** 500GB, **Ports:** 4xUSB, FW800, Thunderbolt, SDXC
Optical drive: 8x SuperDrive
Display: 1920x1080-pixel 21.5-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen
Graphics: AMD Radeon HD 6750M with 512MB of GDDR5 memory
Dimensions: 45.1x52.8x18.85cm
Weight: 9.3kg

PROS & CONS

- ＋ Sandy Bridge processors
- ＋ Powerful new graphics
- ＋ FaceTime HD camera
- ＋ Thunderbolt port
- ＋ Small price drop
- − Same old optical drive

VERDICT

★★★★★

"The 2011 refresh is a significant step up for the iMac range, with performance increases and great new features."

Although they look like every other iMac on the outside, the new mid-2011 iMacs have been radically upgraded on the inside. Second-generation quad core Intel Core i5s processors are used across the range, where previously all but the most expensive 27-inch model had dual core Core i3s, and new graphics give up to three times the power of the mid-2010 models. Also, the new Thunderbolt port could revolutionise the way you use a Mac.

The new iMacs have moved to Sandy Bridge processors, the second generation of Intel's celebrated Core-i series of CPUs. These chips integrate the processor, cache, memory controller and graphics media engine on a single die for greater efficiency, and their Turbo Boost feature gives extra power in short bursts. Graphics have also had a boost. All iMacs now use AMD's latest Radeon HD GPUs (Graphic Processing Units), with the two 21.5-inch models supported by 512MB of GDDR5 memory.

These component upgrades pay dividends in our benchmarking tests. This entry-level 21.5-inch model's *QuickBench* 3D rendering is over 56% up on the last generation's cheapest iMac, and it even outperforms the fastest 27-inch model from the mid-2010 range, fitted with an SSD! It runs *Doom 3* significantly faster, and manages *Call of Duty 4* with ease, averaging over 86 frames per second.

Aside from the Thunderbolt port, the 21-inch iMac's form factor is unchanged.

The Mini DisplayPort has been replaced with a Thunderbolt port, an innovative technology that can handle external displays as well as storage peripherals. It's over 20 times faster than USB 2.0 and 12 times quicker than FireWire 800. With the Thunderbolt port, you can use the 21.5-inch iMac's crystal-clear, 1920x1080-resolution screen as a display for a portable Mac, a feature previously unique to the 27-inch models. It currently demands a Thunderbolt-to-Thunderbolt connection, restricting it to the new MacBook Pros, but with future third-party peripherals it could be possible to use your iMac as a display for Mini DisplayPort and HDMI video devices.

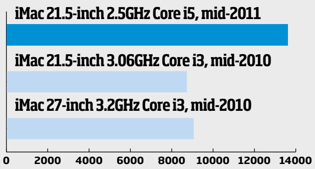
"Component upgrades pay dividends in our benchmarking tests. This entry level model is 56% faster than the last generation iMac"

For those who like video chat, a higher resolution FaceTime HD camera is now standard, giving 720p resolution, a 16:9 aspect ratio and a much-improved low-light performance that you'll notice.

We've one or two trivial complaints. It still uses the same old 8x optical drive, and online custom options are a little sparse too. This entry-level iMac is the only model you can't augment with an SSD, for example, and Apple will only fit up to 8GB of RAM, even though it's quite capable of handling 16GB. But overall, this is an excellent refresh that brings significant performance boosts while reducing the price by £21.

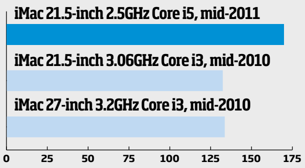
Ian Osborne

>> BENCHMARKS / How do the MacBook Pros stack up?



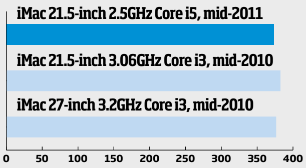
Cinebench (CBs)

Measuring CPU and GPU performance, *Cinebench* reports its results as a single figure. Multi-core performance quoted.



Doom 3 frame rates (FPS)

Tested using *Doom 3*'s 'timedemo 1' routine, set at 1,024x768 with settings at Ultra. Frames per second quoted. Higher is better.



iTunes encoding (Seconds)

A timed test using the latest version of *iTunes*, ripping an audio CD at 128kb/sec AAC, auto sample rate, no VBR.

The iPad Wi-Fi + 3G costs £100 more than non-Wi-Fi models, so is the extra cost justified?
Photography: Gavin Roberts

»TABLET DEVICE

iPad 2 with Wi-Fi + 3G 64GB

£659 The iPad 2 makes it easy to stay connected anywhere – at a price

You probably already know what we think about the iPad 2 – we love its thin light unibody, faster processor and dual cameras, awarding it a 4-star rating in *MF234* – so why are we looking at it again so soon? 3G mobile data.

While the regular iPad 2 sports Wi-Fi for quick surfing at home, in the office or on a public Wi-Fi network, adding a 3G micro SIM card opens up more possibilities: from being online to places where Wi-Fi isn't available or as an alternative to a slow, landline internet connection. The question is: is adding 3G worth the £100 premium Apple charges? And if so, can you find a good-value mobile data plan?

The answer to both questions is: it depends. Adding the micro SIM is as easy as putting one in the iPhone 4: you use the supplied SIM extraction tool to open the micro SIM cage on the iPad's right side, slot in your micro SIM, type in your PIN and remember to switch off Wi-Fi – no other settings should be required. Depending on the speed on your local connection, you should be able to get online pretty quickly. It's great to catch up with news and emails wherever you are. The catch comes when you need to do something bigger – such as streaming music or downloading videos. This is where mobile providers and/or tariff come in.

> *"The big question is: is adding 3G actually worth the £100 premium Apple charges?"*

There are a variety of SIM-only, Pay As You Go and Pay Monthly plans available from major mobile networks – choosing one depends on how much mobile data you think you'll use each month. For occasional use, Orange's iPad Daily plan is ideal (**http://bit.ly/jkxRgU**), charging just £2 per day for 200MB of mobile data. Or there's Three's Pay Monthly micro-SIM plan, which gives you 10GB of mobile data – enough for 10 hours of movie downloads per week – for just £15 per month (**http://bit.ly/mMqWvX**). Or you could swap the micro SIM from your iPhone 4 when you need to. This is good sense for lower spec iPad 2s where the £100 Apple charges for 3G connectivity would be better spent on a model with extra storage instead.

Rob Mead-Green

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Apple
www.apple.com/uk

SPECIFICATIONS

Processor: 1GHz dual-core Apple A5 system-on-chip with 512MB of DDR2 RAM **RAM:** 64GB

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Stay in touch wherever you are
- ⊕ Convenient and easy to use
- ⊖ £100 more than Wi-Fi version
- ⊖ Mobile data charges can be high

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"The 3G option is nice to have, but is by no means essential. Choose the Wi-Fi only version and save yourself £100 instead."

>> HEADPHONES

Sennheiser HD 518

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£95 Want audiophile-quality sound for your Mac, iPad or iPod?

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Sennheiser
URL: www.sennheiser.co.uk

SPECIFICATIONS

Frequency response: 14Hz-26kHz **Impedance:** 50 ohms **Cable length:** 3m OFC single sided, exchangeable **Connector:** 6.3mm stereo jack with 3.5mm adapter

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Comfortable, lightweight design
- ⊕ Excellent sound quality
- ⊖ No inline mic for iPhone users
- ⊖ Not great with low bit rate MP3s

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Ideal for all-day listening, these headphones have audiophile chops aplenty."

To hear music at its best you really need a decent pair of headphones. And this is where the Sennheiser HD 518 comes in. Ostensibly designed for hi-fi use, the 518s bring audiophile-sound quality to your Mac, iPad or iPhone in a lightweight, open-backed design.

What strikes you first is the HD 518's sheer bulk: large, extravagantly padded, oval ear cups, a wide headband and a 3m cable with 6.3m headphone jack and 3.5mm adapter.

It's fair to say that the Sennheiser HD 518 is built for comfort rather than stealth: those huge ear cups are circumaural – that is, designed to fit around the ears rather than on or in them, making them super-comfy.

The headphones are also open-backed to give your music a light, airy feel, although this can also result in sound leaking in or out – great if you want to be aware of what's going on around you, but annoying for anyone who has to listen to a tinny rendition of your tunes.

Out of the box, these headphones initially disappoint with a muffled sound that's thin on high-frequency sounds such as cymbals. Luckily, that quickly gives way to a more balanced sound that's breathtakingly clear with well-recorded rock, pop and classical. Ironically the Sennheiser's transparency could make some songs in your library sound worse: it's not very forgiving of low bit-rate MP3s or tunes that were badly recorded or mastered in the first place.

Rob Mead-Green

HD 518
SENNHEISER

Sennheiser's HD 518s are big, beautifully made and deliver great sound quality for the money.

>> COMPACT CAMERA

Canon IXUS 220HS

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£199 A picture of simplicity and quality

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Canon
www.canon.co.uk

SPECIFICATIONS

Resolution: 12.1 million pixels
Lens: 4.3 - 21.5 mm f/2.7 - f/5.9 (35 mm equivalent: 24 - 120 mm
Electronic viewfinder: 2.7-inch LCD with 230,00 dots

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Easy to carry
- ⊕ Stylish, tough steel body
- ⊖ Excellent, high-detail shots
- ⊖ LCD reflections in the sun

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Even at lower settings, this camera impresses with the detail it captures."

With dimensions of just 92.2x55.9x19.5mm and weighing only 141g, Canon's new 12-million pixel IXUS 220 HS is a great pocket-sized camera and its stylish stainless-steel body means it's built to last. Its stabilised 24-120mm (equivalent) lens is also versatile and suitable for sweeping vistas and portraits, as well as macro shots with subjects as close as 3cm from the lens.

Program mode gives the user the greatest level of control, but there's a healthy selection of shooting modes, including Smart Auto and options to trigger the shutter when the subject smiles or winks. The Tracking AF (autofocus) system is also useful when shooting moving subjects or using the focus-and-recompose technique, but face detection AiAF is on hand and a good choice for snapping social events.

Canon
IXUS 220 HS
LENS 5x IS
12.1 MEGA PIXELS

The IXUS 220 HS is uncomplicated and capable of producing superb images.

As well as still images, the IXUS 220 HS can record Full HD movies with stereo sound and Dynamic IS to help keep the footage shake-free.

Like most modern compact cameras, the IXUS 220 HS doesn't have an optical viewfinder and images are composed on the 2.7-inch 230,000 dots LCD screen. Apart from in bright, sunny conditions when reflections become an issue, this provides a clear view of the scene.

Most importantly, the IXUS 220 HS produces high-quality images, especially at the lower sensitivity settings – the range is ISO 100-3200. Images are well exposed and the white balance system performs well in a range of lighting conditions.

Angela Nicholson

FOO FIGHTERS
Absolute C Rock DAB
West Wiltshire
vita audio

The Vita Audio R4i is available in dream white (shown), rich walnut and midnight black finishes.
Photography: Gavin Roberts

>> SOUND CENTRE

Vita Audio R4i

£550 Could this high-end sound system give your old-school CDs a new lease of life?

Why do so few iPod-compatible music centres incorporate a CD player? People still own CDs and many prefer to buy new music on disc and then rip it themselves rather than download through an online music store. Vita Audio's R4i integrated music system could well tap into an underserved market, but given the price it will only be welcomed by hard-core audiophiles.

As well as a CD player and an iPod dock, the R4i includes FM and DAB radios, with five presets for each. There's no built-in internet radio, but if you have an iOS device you could use an app and play it through the iPod dock. MP3 and WMA files can be played from CDs and USB sticks, but track, artist and album information aren't listed when doing so. It also has a clock with alarm functions, but given the size and weight of the unit, it won't find a natural home on your bedside table.

Indeed, the R4i's excessive bulk is its main drawback. It wouldn't even fit on most bedside tables, and at eight kilogrammes, it could prove too heavy for your shelves. Its build quality and design are very good (the circular remote that sits in a caddy on the top of the unit is an excellent touch), but make sure you've enough space before investing in one.

> *"As well as a CD player and iPod dock, the R4i includes FM and DAB radios, with five presets for each"*

Another drawback is that the R4i isn't shielded for the iPhone, so you might have to switch to airplane mode to prevent interference. This is a shocking omission given the price.

Thankfully, audio quality is far from shocking. In fact, it has one of the most complete sounds we've heard in an all-in-one system, with rich, strong bass, a well-defined mid-section and a crisp, clear high end. Vocals are well realised, and there's no flabbiness or distortion anywhere. The sound is beautifully detailed, and its stereo effects are reasonable given the proximity of the speakers.

Although not exceptionally feature-rich, Vita Audio R4i gives a lot for your money. It has an impressive sound and performance, though we wish it wasn't so bulky.
Ian Osborne

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Vita Audio
www.vitaaudio.com

SPECIFICATIONS

Drivers: 2x3.5-inch, 1x5-inch **Maximum output:** 80 watts **Inputs:** CD, USB, 30-pin dock connector, 2xAUX **Dimensions:** 14.5x45x25.5cm **Weight:** 8kg

PROS & CONS

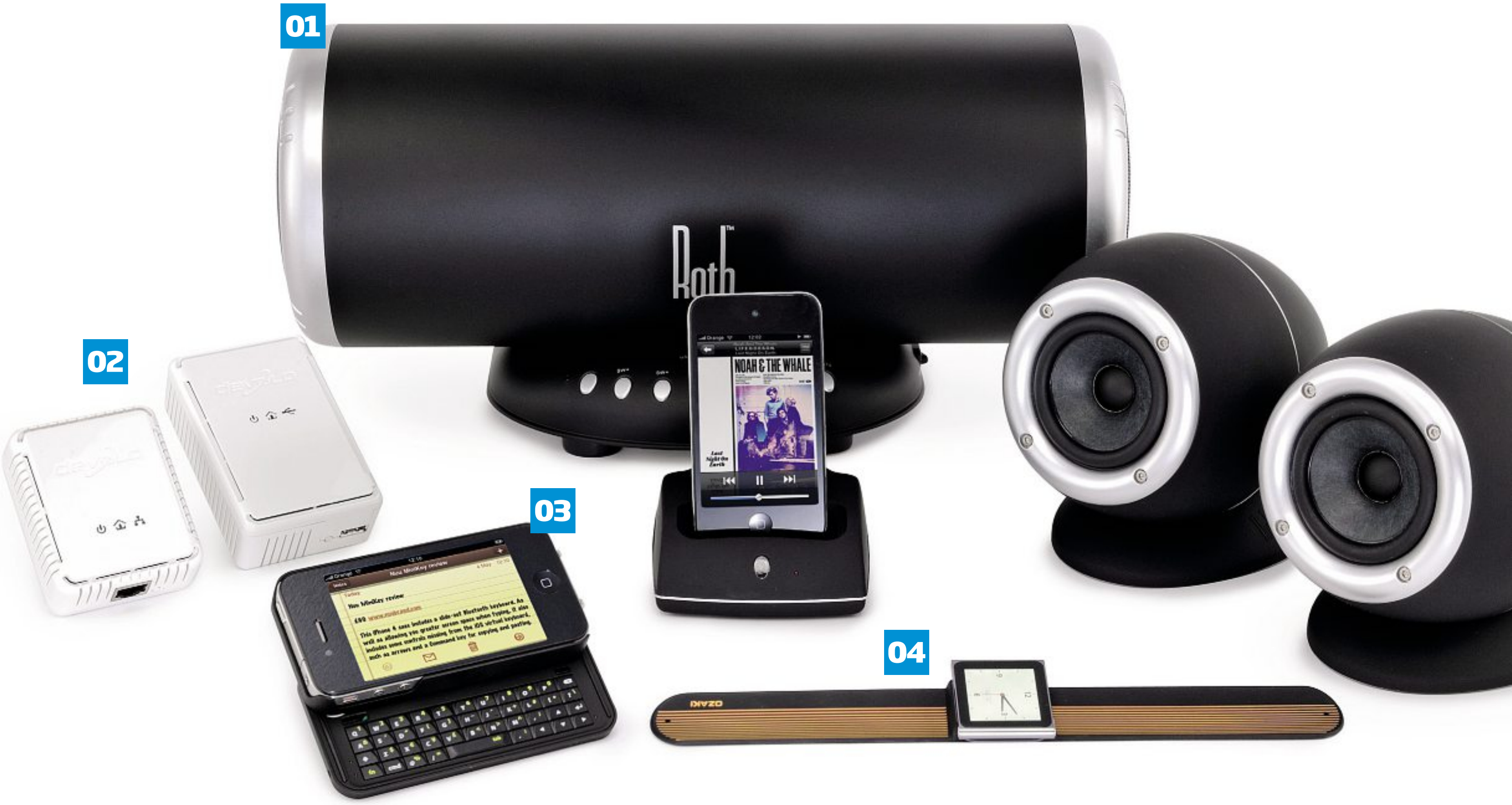
⊕ Rich, strong bass
⊕ Beautiful overall sound
⊖ Airplane mode needed
⊖ Bulky and heavy

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"The Vita Audio R4i has a great sound - just make sure you've got the room."

Words: Ian Osborne, Rob Mead-Green



>> SPEAKER DOCK

Roth CHARLiE 2.1

£80 www.rothaudio.co.uk

01 You can connect this 2.1 speaker system to your Mac using USB, and also use it with your iPod or iPhone, courtesy of a wireless iPod dock that's shielded so you don't need any sort of Airplane mode. A versatile remote lets you adjust the subwoofer volume independently. The CHARLiE 2.1 is attractively designed in black or white. Sound quality is good, offering a lot of detail at the top end and good separation. The bass is a little flabby though, even at moderate volumes. It's not poor by any means, but there is a lack of clarity.

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A solid performer that makes an ideal desktop speaker set for Macs."

>> USB EXTENDER

Devolo dLAN 200 AV USB

£107 www.devolo.co.uk

02 According to the box, the dLAN 200 AV USB Extender can 'connect and control USB hard drives and printers over the powerline', so you can set them up anywhere in the house and share with other users on your home network. It's configured using the 'intuitive dLAN Cockpit software for PC and Mac'. While there's no Mac version of this app on the CD, Devolo says it's coming soon and technical support says the product won't be Mac-compatible until it's released later this year. Don't trust what it says on the box.

VERDICT

★☆☆☆☆

"Pass this one by until the Cockpit software is released for Mac OS X."

>> iPHONE KEYBOARD

Nuu MiniKey

£60 www.nuubrand.com

03 This iPhone 4 case includes a slide-out Bluetooth keyboard. As well as allowing you greater screen space when typing, it also includes some controls missing from the iOS virtual keyboard, such as arrows and a ⌘ key for copying and pasting. It uses its own internal battery, but doesn't power the iPhone. A button on the case switches the on-screen keyboard on and off. The MiniKey is well made and sturdy, but the keys are a little stiff. It's a pity there's only one ⇧ key too. Still, if you find on-screen typing a chore, this may be to your liking.

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"Useful for those who don't like typing on the iPhone 4's on-screen keyboard."

>> iPOD ACCESSORY

Ozaki iCoat Nano Watch

£25 www.ozaki.co.uk

04 With its touchscreen display, tiny size and mini-clock app, the iPod nano is ideally suited to wearing on your wrist as a watch, and the iCoat Nano Watch+ Strapband can help that dream come true. The iCoat comprises a flexible steel strap with rubberised cover that wraps around your wrist when you bend one end. A sturdy loop in the middle helps keep your iPod nano secure. The iCoat is great for everyday use, lightweight and comfortable, if a little bulky. But it can fall off during vigorous activities, making it less than ideal for sports use.

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Light, easy-to-wear iPod nano wriststrap, but not without its flaws."

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>> MINIMAL TEXT EDITOR

LSD Programming Writer 1.3

£5.99 This makes WriteRoom look bloated!

KEY INFO

Developer: LSD Programming
www.lsdprogramming.com/writer

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6.6 or later

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ It's certainly very minimal
- ⊕ Useful pinning and zooming
- ⊖ Not enough smart text options
- ⊖ No character count

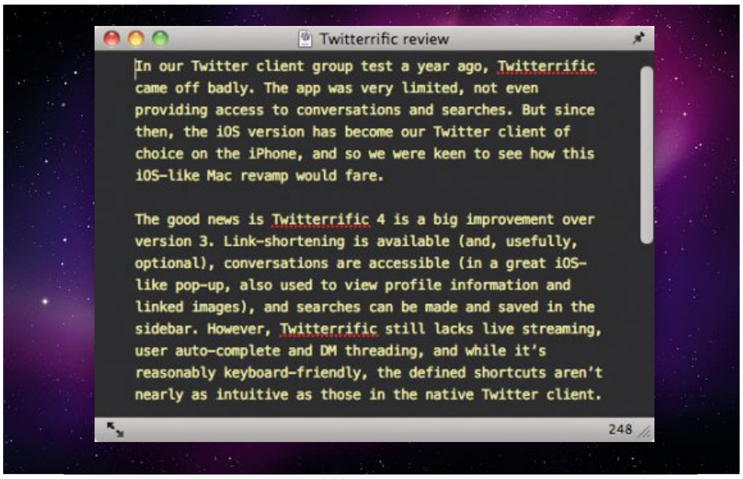
VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A very nice, tiny app that just lets you get on with the process of writing."

Writer's website describes the app as a 'minimal text editor' and it's not kidding. This is a product designed to get you writing rather than distracting you with options or, for that matter, anything else. In its windowed mode, *Writer* merely provides a word count and a couple of icons. You use the pin at the top-right to pin the window above others, while the fullscreen icon sends *Writer* to fullscreen mode, to block out all other distractions.

A little customisation is available. The app's preferences enable you to toggle a 'high contrast' mode, with yellow text on a grey background (more readable than the default white/black combinations), and you can define the fonts used in each mode. Interestingly, the zoom button in windowed mode has custom behaviour – when clicked, it makes the window fill exactly half the screen. This might prove useful for working alongside references in another app, although we suspect people who enjoy such setups already utilise the likes of *SizeUp* for window positioning. More useful, perhaps, is the statistics window, which provides an average words-per-minute figure for the current document.



In our Twitter client group test a year ago, Twitterrific came off badly. The app was very limited, not even providing access to conversations and searches. But since then, the iOS version has become our Twitter client of choice on the iPhone, and so we were keen to see how this iOS-like Mac revamp would fare.

The good news is Twitterrific 4 is a big improvement over version 3. Link-shortening is available (and, usefully, optional), conversations are accessible (in a great iOS-like pop-up, also used to view profile information and linked images), and searches can be made and saved in the sidebar. However, Twitterrific still lacks live streaming, user auto-complete and DM threading, and while it's reasonably keyboard-friendly, the defined shortcuts aren't nearly as intuitive as those in the native Twitter client.

Even in its windowed mode, Writer offers no distractions, forcing you to focus on words.

The lack of a character count and smart apostrophes is frustrating, and, on balance, we'd sooner spend an extra nine quid for the far more configurable *WriteRoom*. But if all you're looking for is a sleek, simple, no-nonsense writing app, *Writer* fits the bill admirably.

Craig Grannell

>> DRAFTING AND WRITING TOOL

The Soulmen Ulysses 2.0.6

£18 Work on projects rather than single files

KEY INFO

Developer: The Soulmen
www.the-soulmen.com/Ulysses

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6.6 or later

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Great workflow and filters
- ⊕ Excellent search-and-replace
- ⊖ Weak fullscreen modes
- ⊖ Only one open project allowed

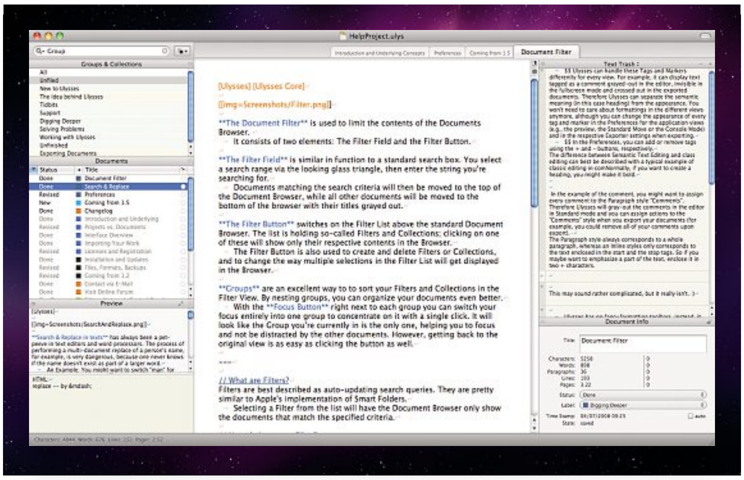
VERDICT

★★★½☆

"First-rate filters and decent workflow, but a few irritating drawbacks."

Most text editors have you work in linear fashion, using a single document. If you've related texts, you must manage individual files, possibly across multiple applications. *Ulysses* instead has you create projects, which may comprise numerous individual documents, revisions and related notes, all in a single container.

The three-pane interface offers document storage and previews on the left, the primary workspace in the centre, and collapsible notes and document information to the right. The app is largely intuitive, and well-written help files exist if you get stuck. Under the surface, extra depth includes document management by way of folders and dynamic sets based on filters, which work similarly to Apple's smart containers. Plentiful export options are also available.



Ulysses enables multiple filterable text documents within a single container.

However, flaws stop *Ulysses* reaching the dizzy heights it strives for. The fullscreen modes are weak. A Lion-like one that removes the menu bar is okay, but doesn't deal with distractions from the app itself; the console-oriented text-only mode is too limited, lacking even a word count. We also disliked the emphasis on code-based semantics (such as using mark-up for emboldening text) and *Ulysses* only opening a single project at a time. *Scrivener* is more feature-rich and does everything *Ulysses* can, for a little more outlay; and so while *Ulysses* does enough to warrant a guarded recommendation, *Scrivener's* better as a project-based writing tool.

Craig Grannell

>> HDR SOFTWARE

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

Ohanaware HDRtist Pro 1.0.0

£20 HDR is for experts, right? Not any more, because this £20 app makes it so easy, anyone can do it

HDR photography is a tricky technique to master because you're attempting to combine separate exposures of a super-high contrast scene into a single image. You need a tripod or an exceptionally steady hand to get a series of shots that line up in the first place, and then special software to combine them and compress the extra-wide range of brightness levels into a viewable image.

Most HDR apps assume you already know to shoot a series of suitable images in the first place, which isn't particularly helpful if you're just starting out. *HDRtist* starts as it means to carry on, though, offering beginner-friendly tips on how to get those images in the first place. Just click 'How to take HDR Photos' on the Welcome screen, and it'll walk you through everything you need to know according to the sort of camera you've got (compact, super-zoom, SLR) or the method you want to use (single image, exposure series, tripod or not).

> *"HDRtist starts as it means to go on, offering beginner-friendly tips on how to shoot a series of suitable images in the first place"*

This is the thing about HDR – you don't always have to shoot a whole series of images. That's only for subjects with a wider brightness range than the camera can capture. If the camera can cope with the scene in front of it without clipping important shadow or highlight detail, you can still create an 'HDR' image because the other part of the process is balancing up the dark and light areas so that they have similar brightness levels. Like other HDR programs, *HDRtist* can work with both single images and exposure series, and you can use it to exploit the extra latent dynamic range in RAW files; as long as the Mac OS supports the RAW file format, *HDRtist* can open them.

HDRtist offers two methods, or 'Generators': Exposure Fusion and HDR. Exposure Fusion is often the most effective at producing natural-looking images, and it works by blending the best-exposed parts of each of the images in the series. The HDR Generator, however, uses the classic HDR technique of combining and processing the brightness values mathematically.

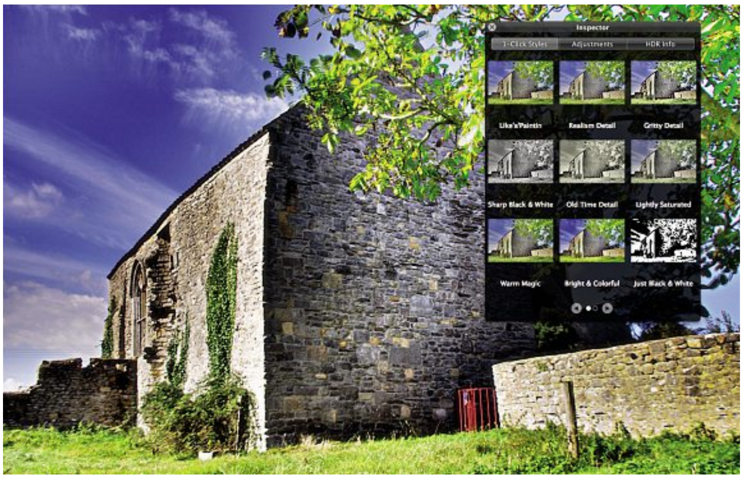
It's all really easy to do. Just select the photos you want to combine in the *Finder* and drag them onto the *HDRtist* icon. It creates a new HDR document, imports the photos and displays them in the source bar to the left of the picture, and then blends them automatically. If you don't like what you see, you can choose one of the 15 '1-Click Styles' in the Inspector. If it's still not right, you can use the Inspector's Adjustments tab to tweak the settings and save a preset.

Your source photos aren't aligned by default, but there is an Align Images button on the toolbar. It can take a minute or so to complete the process, but you'll need to do this if you shot handheld, because the camera will have moved slightly between exposures. It's a shame there's no zoom function, though, because it means you can't check the image detail for alignment or noise.

HDRtist Pro is simple, cheap and effective, especially when you compare it to the alternatives. For example, *Photoshop CS5* has its own HDR tools, but you have to work pretty hard to get good results.

HDR experts might be able to squeeze a little more out of expensive alternatives, but for sheer ease of use, simplicity and value for money, *HDRtist* is brilliant.

Rod Lawton



The fullscreen view lets you get a proper look at your HDR image as you make adjustments.

KEY INFO

Developer: Ohanaware
www.ohanaware.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5 or later **RAM:** 1GB
Disk space: 200MB **Video:** 256MB VRAM recommended

PROS & CONS

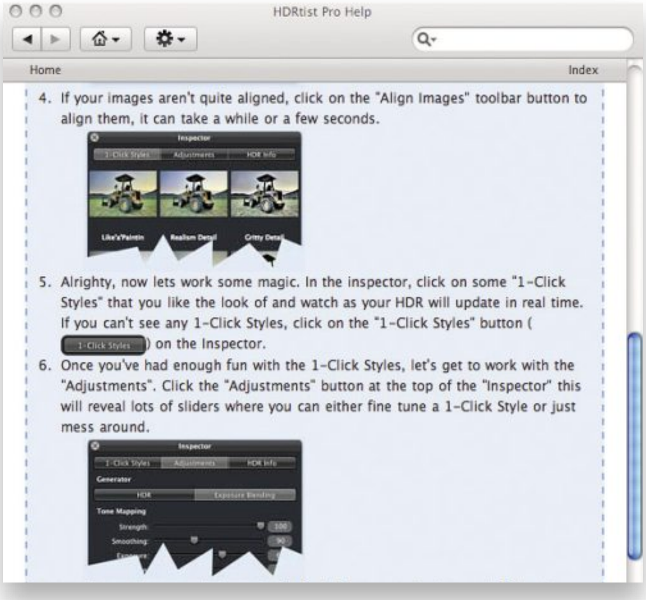
- ⊕ Drag, drop and click a preset - easy
- ⊕ Good results with Exposure Fusion
- ⊕ Good value for money
- ⊕ Saves HDR files for re-editing
- ⊕ Good help system, ideal for novices
- ⊖ No zoom function for fine details

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Cheap, easy and effective; what it lacks in polish, it makes up for with speed and simplicity."

The tone is simple and novice-friendly, right down to the help system.



4. If your images aren't quite aligned, click on the "Align Images" toolbar button to align them, it can take a while or a few seconds.
5. Alrighty, now lets work some magic. In the inspector, click on some "1-Click Styles" that you like the look of and watch as your HDR will update in real time. If you can't see any 1-Click Styles, click on the "1-Click Styles" button (1-Click Styles) on the Inspector.
6. Once you've had enough fun with the 1-Click Styles, let's get to work with the "Adjustments". Click the "Adjustments" button at the top of the "Inspector" this will reveal lots of sliders where you can either fine tune a 1-Click Style or just mess around.

>> HOME SECURITY APPLICATION

Orbicule Witness

£24 The high-tech way to keep an eye out

KEY INFO

Developer: Orbicule, Inc
www.orbicule.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6 only, iOS app requires iOS 4.2 or later

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Easy to set up and use
- ⊕ Very reliable and speedy
- ⊕ Useful iOS integration
- ⊖ Snow Leopard and iOS 4.2+ only

VERDICT

★★★★☆

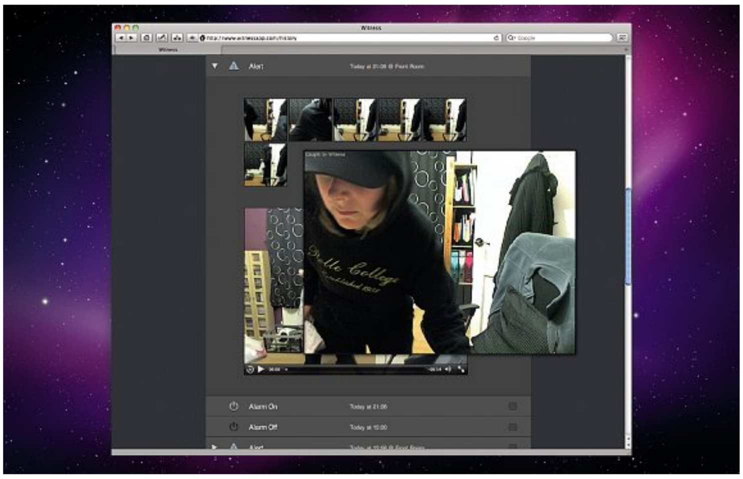
"A convenient way of turning kit into a motion-detecting intruder alarm."

This game turns your Mac into a motion-detecting home security system. With the alarm set, the application runs in the background and locks your Mac (use your administrator password to disarm). If it detects movement through your webcam, it records stills and video that can be retrieved through the *Witness* web page, or using an optional free iOS application. The iOS app also receives push notifications when the alarm is triggered, and can set or disarm the alarm remotely, as long as your Mac's not in Sleep Mode. An active alarm keeps it from sleeping, but it doesn't stop you reaching it through Back to My Mac.

Any number of Macs can be added to your *Witness* account, and when you set an alarm, you can exclude Macs. It only officially supports internal cameras, but third-party cams that work with *Photo Booth* or *FaceTime* should be fine. We tried the webcams covered in last issue's group test, and they all worked correctly.

Witness is simple to install and use, and reliable in operation. Push notifications are sent quickly, and images and video are stored on Orbicule's servers, so they're still accessible if your Mac's stolen. There's no option for setting an alarm without locking your Mac, which would be useful for identifying someone who was misusing rather than stealing it, but we're told this feature is coming. It's Snow Leopard-only, so it can't protect PowerPCs. But if you have an Intel Mac, it's a low cost and useful addition to your home security setup.

Ian Osborne



Video and images captured by Witness can be accessed over the web or on an iOS device.

>> EMAIL DESIGN UTILITY

Equinux Mail Designer 1.0

€60 (£54) DTP-style control over emails

KEY INFO

Developer: Equinux
equinux.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5.8 or later
Processor: Intel-based Mac
Other: Apple Mail

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Control over email layouts
- ⊕ Well-written manual
- ⊕ Mostly intuitive interface
- ⊖ Too pricey for occasional use

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Takes emails beyond text formatting and into the realm of true layout."

This app puts you thoroughly in command of your emails' appearance, using a DTP-style metaphor of text and image boxes. It's integrated with *Apple Mail's* stationery feature, so you can't send its layouts from other clients, though of course recipients can view them in nearly any mail program.

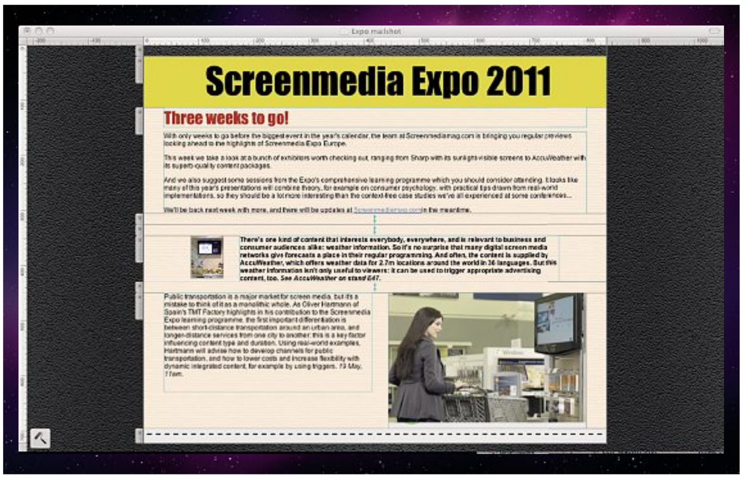
If you're used to a DTP package such as *InDesign* or *QuarkXPress*, you may not need to browse the manual and tutorial videos. Select from a dozen ready-made layouts – oddly, you can't start with a blank canvas, though it's easy enough to delete what's there – and tweak them to your needs with drag-and-drop backgrounds, text styles, photos, graphics and so on.

Then create a new message in *Apple Mail* and select your Mail Designer layout as stationery.

It's that simple, but it's not crude. Design geeks will appreciate features such as the distance indicators showing the number of pixels between elements. DTP veterans will be at home with grouping and layering elements. And those creating designs for others will welcome the ability to auto-insert the sender's name according to *Mail* preferences.

However, not all text areas support backgrounds, for example, and there's no save-as-HTML option (though Equinux hints it may be coming). And at more than £50, or £80 with 200-plus business templates, the price is steep. But if you need emails with full-blown layouts this makes it easy.

Barnaby Page



Screenmedia Expo 2011

Three weeks to go!

With only weeks to go before the biggest event in the year's calendar, the team at Screenmediamag.com is bringing you regular previews looking ahead to the highlights of Screenmedia Expo Europe.

This week we take a look at a bunch of exhibitors worth checking out, ranging from Sharp with its sunlight-visible screens to AccuWeather with its superb-quality content packages.

And we also suggest some sessions from the Expo's comprehensive learning programme which you should consider attending. It looks like many of this year's presentations will combine theory, for example on consumer psychology, with practical tips drawn from real-world implementations, so they should be a lot more interesting than the context-free case studies we've all experienced at some conferences...

We'll be back next week with more, and there will be updates at Screenmediaexpo.com in the meantime.

There's one kind of content that interests everybody, everywhere, and is relevant to business and consumer audiences alike: weather information. So it's no surprise that many digital screen media networks give forecasts a place in their regular programming. And often, the content is supplied by AccuWeather, which offers weather data for 2.7m locations around the world in 36 languages. But this weather information isn't only useful to viewers: it can be used to trigger appropriate advertising content, too. *See AccuWeather on stand E47.*

Public transportation is a major market for screen media, but it's a mistake to think of it as a monolithic whole. As Oliver Hartmann of Spain's TMT Factory highlights in his contribution to the Screenmedia Expo learning programme, the first important differentiation is between short-distance transportation around an urban area, and longer-distance services from one city to another: this is a key factor influencing content type and duration. Using real-world examples, Hartmann will advise how to develop channels for public transportation, and how to lower costs and increase flexibility with dynamic integrated content, for example by using triggers. *13 May, 11am.*

Layouts are assembled from textual and graphical blocks, as in many DTP applications.

>> DIGITAL SCRAPBOOKING

Chronos iScrapbook 3.2

$50 (£30), family pack $90 (£54), upgrade $30 (£18) Get crafty with this scrapbooking software

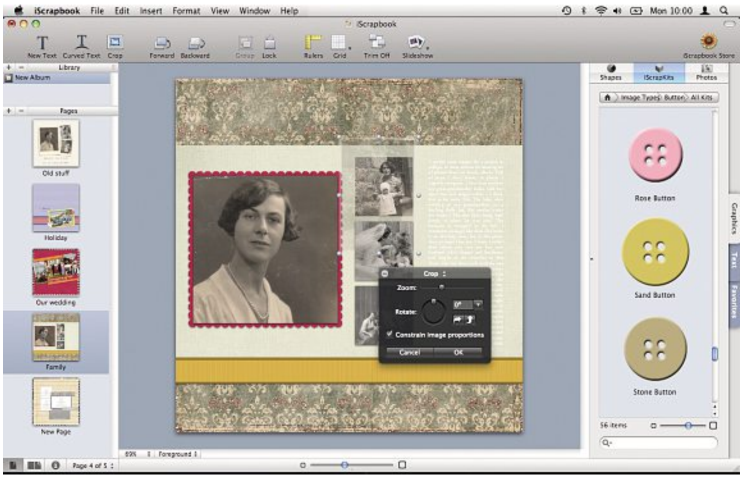
Scrapbooking is one of the hottest trends in crafting, with its own buzzwords, big-name products and even celebrity names. Nestled somewhere in the space between photography, art and papercraft, scrapbooking involves taking your favourite photos then mounting and decorating them with patterned papers, embellishments and diary-style text.

If you enjoy scrapbooking the traditional way then it's worth exploring the world of digital scrapbooking. And with *iScrapbook 3.2*, it's a doddle.

One of the first things you'll notice about the package is that it's reassuringly Mac-like. From the 'Getting Started' introductory video to the windows and toolbar, it's clear that *iScrapbook's* developer wants you to think of it as the sixth *iLife* app. The scrapbook elements, grouped together in coordinating kits, are easy to drag and drop where you want them, and the software integrates easily with your *iPhoto* library to browse and import photographs.

> *"If you enjoy scrapbooking the traditional way then it's worth exploring digital scrapbooking. And with iScrapbook, it's a doddle…"*

The app comes with all the basics you need to start building your own scrapbook page designs, but the real fun comes when you download the free kits from **www.chronosnet.com**. There are more than 2,000 downloadable graphics, including patterned papers, alphabets, embellishments, stamps and word art. The kit themes include birthday, Christmas and back to school. If you've ever baulked at the price of scrapping supplies in HobbyCraft, these digital elements alone make the *iScrapbook's* price seem reasonable. When you want more, *iScrapbook* sells additional packs, or you can drag in PNGs, JPEGs and more from your hard disk.



The kits let you quickly create stylish pages, and you can easily drag in iPhoto pictures.

Whether you're brand new to digital scrapbooking or a long-time aficionado, *iScrapbook 3.2* supports your level of experience to help you create gorgeous pages. For beginners – or those who just want a quick creative fix – the pre-designed pages allow you to drag and drop your photos into single pages or whole albums in a similar way to building books in *iPhoto*. For more creative control, choose from 25 Smart Templates (a new feature for this version of *iScrapbook*), blank single-page layouts that allow you to mix and match the downloadable elements and photos to suit your style. Of course, you can take the more arduous route of scrapbooking completely from scratch on a blank page, drawing, colouring and layering your own shapes, and playing with fonts and photo effects – but it's hard to see why you'd bother when the Smart Templates are so much fun to use, and produce such great results.

Once you've finished building your scrapbook pages or albums, you can print them out – though if you've designed your pages on the 12x12-inch format, your home printer is unlikely to be able to print them at 100% – or export them into a format suitable for a commercial printing service. The *iScrapbook* software will guide you through ordering prints and albums through their website using third-party printing companies, but at the moment this is aimed at users in the USA. Many digital scrapbookers prefer to keep their creations in the virtual space, and you'll probably find this the most rewarding way to enjoy your *iScrapbook* creations. Join the community at **www.iscrapbook.com** and you can show off your pages, browse for inspiration, buy kits and make friends in the forum.

Best of all, there's no mess to clear up when you've finished!

Jennifer Phin

KEY INFO

Developer: Chronos
www.chronosnet.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5.8 or later

PROS & CONS

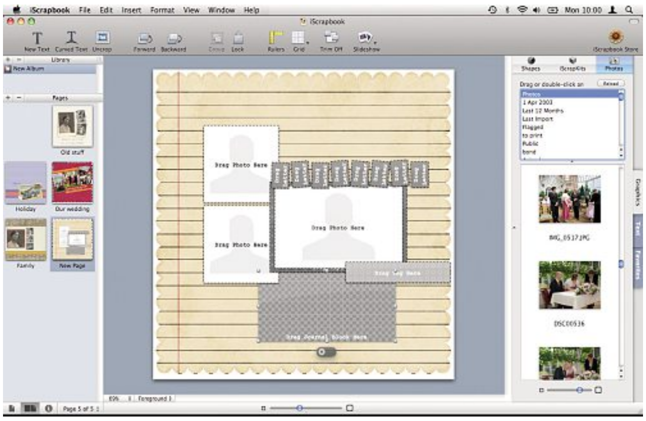
+ Easy to use
+ Free kits to get you started
+ Great online resources
+ All the fun without the mess
+ Suitable for experienced users
− Printing may be awkward

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Dangerously addictive; scrapbooking fans are sure to enjoy exploring digital techniques."

If you need a helping hand to get started, choose one of iScrapbook 3's new Smart Templates.



>> DISK UTILITY

DaisyDisk 2.0.6

$20 (£13) A useful, well-designed disk utility

KEY INFO

Developer: DaisyDisk
www.daisydiskapp.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5 or later
Processor: Intel

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Incredibly pretty to look at
- ⊕ Find space-eating files easily
- ⊖ Visual view of connected disks
- ⊖ A bit of a one-trick pony

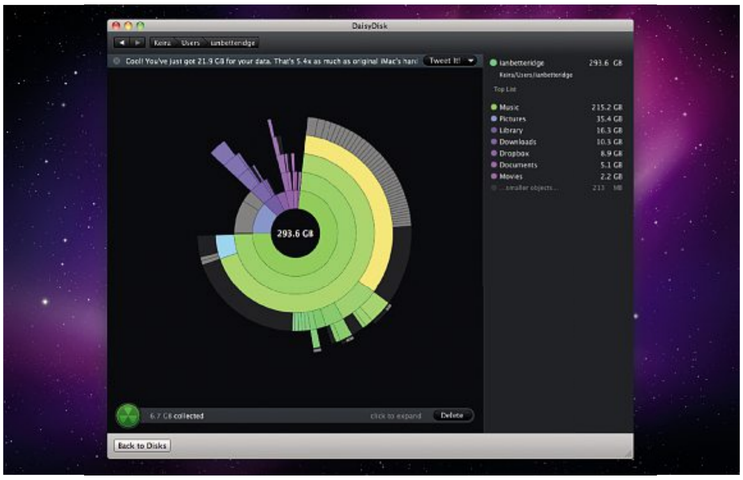
VERDICT

★★★★½

"DaisyDisk is a simple app, does one thing well and looks delightful."

Once upon a time, drive space was a very precious commodity. Now, though, even entry-level Macs come with 500GB or more, and if you buy a decent iMac you'll get the kind of storage that was the realm of supercomputers not so long ago. So does the average Mac user really need a piece of software designed to help free up additional space?

The answer, we think, is 'yes' – and *DaisyDisk* does it brilliantly. *DaisyDisk* visually represents your hard drive as a concentric graph. This makes it really easy to drill down and find big files; once found, you drag them to the button at the bottom of the interface to collect the files, ready to be deleted. *DaisyDisk* gives you a running tally of how much space you will save once you hit Delete. Click on a block in the 'daisy' and you can drill down as deep as you want, with a list of the files, folders and their sizes on the level you're looking at over to the right of the window.


DaisyDisk
Keira
Users
ianbetteridge
Tweet It!
ianbetteridge 293.6 GB
Keira/Users/ianbetteridge
Top List
Music 215.2 GB
Pictures 35.4 GB
Library 16.3 GB
Downloads 10.3 GB
Dropbox 8.9 GB
Documents 5.1 GB
Movies 2.2 GB
...smaller objects... 213 MB
293.6 GB
6.7 GB collected
click to expand
Delete
Back to Disks

Cool! You've just got 21.9 GB for your data. That's 5.4x as much as original iMac's hard

DaisyDisk's interface is simple, attractive and highly effective at helping you find big files.

On our test Mac, we were able to find about 40GB of *Final Cut Express* rendering files that we hadn't touched for two years, and deleted them. That's close to 10% of the usable space on the hard drive, saved in seconds; we're willing to bet that virtually every Mac user has something similar waiting to be reclaimed on their drive.

What makes *DaisyDisk* great to use, though, is how enticing the interface is. It positively encourages you to explore around your drive, and makes this simple part of maintaining your Mac a genuine pleasure.

Ian Betteridge

>> FILE-COMPRESSION UTILITY

sArchiver 3.7

$20 A versatile archiver for around £12

KEY INFO

Developer: Bit Per Second
http://bitpersecond.com/bps/sarchiver.html

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5 or later
Processor: PowerPC or Intel Mac

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Handles all the common formats
- ⊕ Supports creation of disk images
- ⊖ Painfully slow to start up
- ⊖ Quirky interface

VERDICT

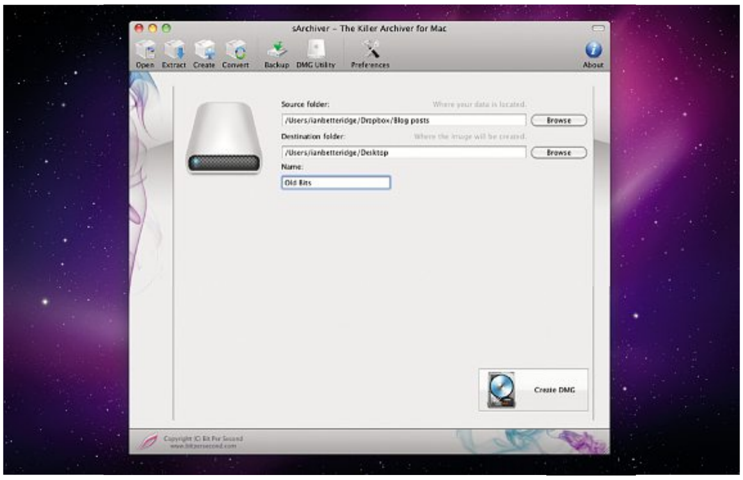
★★★☆☆

"A slow startup bug hinders this otherwise useful utility."

Given that OS X comes with a perfectly serviceable file compression programme for creating archives, is there really any point in paying £12 for one? Bit Per Second, the maker of *sArchiver*, is betting that the slew of additional features its product has will persuade you it's worth the money.

And if judged solely on the spec sheet, *sArchiver* looks like it might just be a winner. As well as vanilla ZIP files, *sArchiver* is able to compress and extract RAR, 7z, Tar, .gz, Bzip2, LHA and ARJ formats, which covers just about all the files you're likely to find anywhere. It is also one of the few compression programmes that create and manage split RAR archives.

sArchiver includes a couple of neat little extras which add to the appeal. It can create disk image files from any folder; it can also create a backup of your documents folder and application preferences, compressing it if you wish to save space.


sArchiver – The Killer Archiver for Mac
Open
Extract
Create
Convert
Backup
DMG Utility
Preferences
About
Where your data is located.
Browse
Where the image will be created.
Browse
Create DMG
Copyright (C) Bit Per Second
www.bitpersecond.com

Source folder: /Users/ianbetteridge/Dropbox/Blog posts
Destination folder: /Users/ianbetteridge/Desktop
Name: Old Bits

sArchiver includes the ability to easily create disk images from any folder on your Mac.

But there are some drawbacks. The interface has some odd little quirks. Rather than simply dragging and dropping files onto the main window to add them to an archive, you have to drag them on to a 'drop zone' which slides out of the main window.

More seriously, we found *sArchiver* extremely slow starting up, taking over 30 seconds to start on a Core i7-equipped MacBook Pro. This made extracting archives a painful process.

Bit Per Second is working on this startup issue, which doesn't affect all Macs. Download the free trial and check its performance on your system before buying. If it's fine, it's worth it.

Ian Betteridge

>> ONLINE BACKUP TOOL

Carbonite

£42 Carbonite is a well-established online backup service, but is it worth the £42-a-year subscription?

We seem to have reached a tipping point with online backup. People have enough data stored on their Macs that they can't afford to lose; those same people are savvy enough to want a remote copy just in case the worst happens.

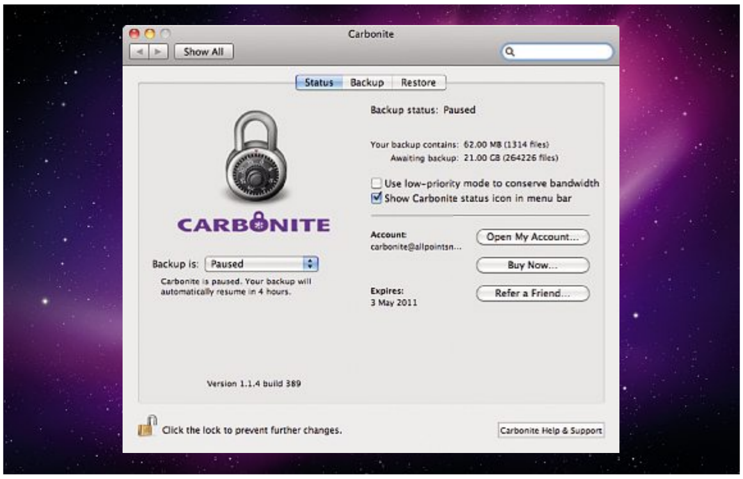
Carbonite is a well-established name in online backup and has recently updated its Mac software. Installing the software client is simple; you'll find a new panel in *System Preferences* and a quick link to the software in your toolbar.

Managing your backups is really easy and you can leave Carbonite to do the whole thing automatically or set your own exclusions. So if you have a 500GB folder full of stuff that doesn't necessarily need a remote copy, you can easily remove it from the backup process. Restoring your data is just as easy with a manual controller or a Restore Assistant to help you through the process.

> *"Carbonite is a well-established name in online backup and has recently updated its Mac software; installing the client is simple"*

If you were looking for complete control, however, there's not much for you to get excited about. Carbonite manages everything, with the only control being an option to use low-priority mode to conserve bandwidth. Still, it does serve to make the application incredibly straightforward.

If you have a lot of data to back up then the initial process is a lengthy one. There's no getting around this until broadband upload speeds are increased massively. However, Carbonite can hardly be held responsible for that. During our initial launch phase the Carbonite client application took up a lot of processor time. The fans on the MacBook we tested the software on were going full tilt the whole time the backup was running. Naturally, when there's less data to transfer, Carbonite needs less processor power, but you're going to need to budget for a slower Mac as well as an internet connection at first.



Backup status: Paused

Your backup contains: 62.00 MB (1314 files)
Awaiting backup: 21.00 GB (264226 files)

☐ Use low-priority mode to conserve bandwidth
☑ Show Carbonite status icon in menu bar

Account:
carbonite@allpointsn...

Expires:
3 May 2011

Backup is: Paused

Carbonite is paused. Your backup will automatically resume in 4 hours.

Version 1.1.4 build 389

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

Once Carbonite is installed you can manage backups from the System Preferences pane.

Naturally, once the initial backup is done the incremental additions are fairly easy. If you spend your days downloading or creating multi-gigabyte files you're going to have some slow backups, but in the main those everyday items don't take up too much bandwidth.

Secure transfers

Your data is encrypted as it's transferred and as Carbonite is happy to point out, stored on some pretty high-grade servers. Your information is stored on redundant disks, meaning that if one fails it doesn't matter; your data will still be safe. Also, the data centre is guarded around the clock and has all manner of safety and power safeguards. If the security of your data is a concern to you then visit the Carbonite website for much more detailed information.

Whether you think off-site backup is a good idea or good value depends upon how highly you prize your data. Carbonite offers you a totally safe and reliable method of backing up all your data and though initial backups are slow and processor-intensive, that's quite an offering. Pricing is good and unlike some others, Carbonite is still offering an unlimited service. Carbonite will set you back £42 for a year's worth of protection; two years is £75 and three years goes for £100. The software works almost invisibly in the background and no matter what disaster befalls your data locally, you'll always have a backup of your precious files somewhere and that is, perhaps, priceless.

Christopher Brennan

KEY INFO

Developer: Carbonite
www.carbonite.co.uk

REQUIREMENTS

OS: Mac OS X 10.4 or later

PROS & CONS

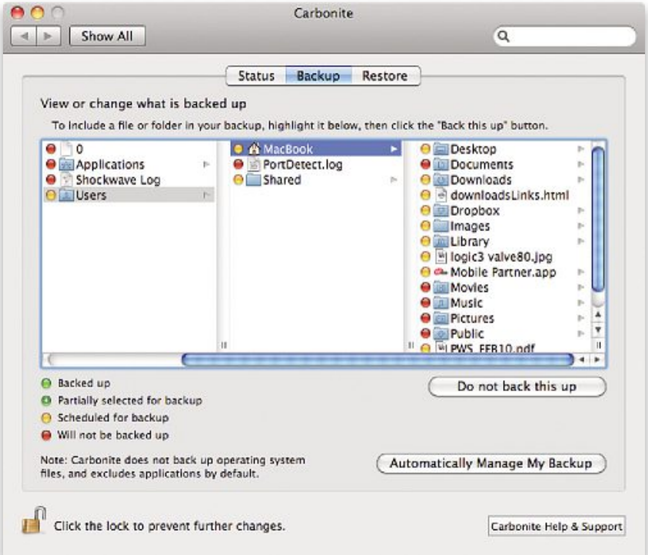
- ⊕ Safe remote backup of your data
- ⊕ Good value for money
- ⊕ Simple to use and install
- ⊖ Lack of control may limit users
- ⊖ Initial backup process is a pain
- ⊖ Processor intensive

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Carbonite offers a simple and easy-to-use remote backup tool, but it is a bit processor-heavy."

Seeing what backups are pending or have not been completed yet is very clear.



View or change what is backed up

To include a file or folder in your backup, highlight it below, then click the "Back this up" button.

● Backed up
● Partially selected for backup
● Scheduled for backup
● Will not be backed up

Note: Carbonite does not back up operating system files, and excludes applications by default.

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

>> TWITTER CLIENT

Twitterrific 4.0.2

£FREE/£5.99 The sleek iOS client goes Mac

KEY INFO

Developer: The Iconfactory
http://twitterrific.com/mac

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6.6 or later

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Fast, efficient and simple
- ⊕ Useful pop-up mechanism
- ⊖ Some odd interface decisions
- ⊖ No DM message threading

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"A good Twitter client that really should have been a great one."

Twitterrific came off badly in our Twitter client group test just over a year ago. The app was very limited, not even providing access to conversations and searches. But since then, the iOS version has become our Twitter client of choice on the iPhone, and so we were keen to see how this iOS-like Mac revamp would fare.

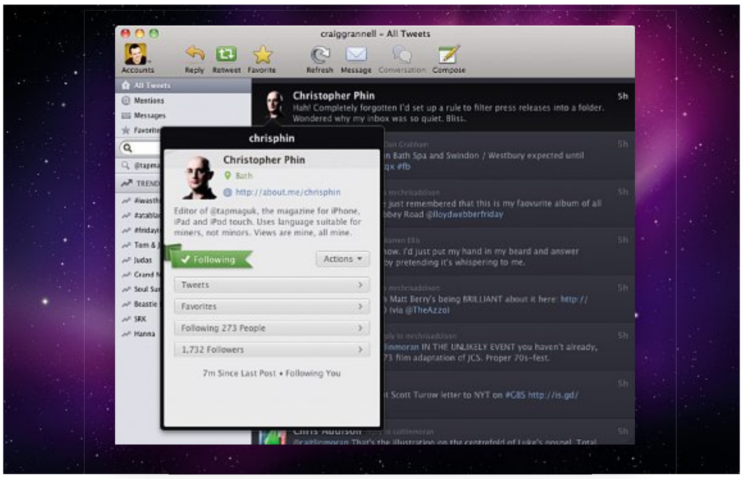
The good news is *Twitterrific 4* is a big improvement over version 3. Link-shortening is available (and, usefully, optional), conversations are accessible (in a great iOS-like pop-up, also used to view profile information and linked images), and searches can be made and saved in the sidebar.

However, *Twitterrific* still lacks live streaming, user auto-complete and DM threading, and while it's reasonably keyboard-friendly, the defined shortcuts aren't nearly as intuitive as those in the native Twitter Mac client.

What's most surprising about *Twitterrific*, though, is how variable it is aesthetically. The Iconfactory is known for its fantastic design work, but concepts that work so well on iOS don't entirely translate to the Mac: the colour scheme differentiates nicely between types of tweets, but text and backgrounds lack contrast, reducing clarity.

And the Mac-only design components don't always work either – the sidebar has tiny text, and if you hide it you lose access to the search function and must use keyboard shortcuts to switch between feed types. Again, then, we have a Mac Twitter client that through various shortcomings remains entrenched in the pack rather than forging ahead of its rivals. Shame.

Craig Grannell



Christopher Phin
Hah! Completely forgotten I'd set up a rule to filter press releases into a folder. Wondered why my inbox was so quiet. Bliss.

Christopher Phin
Bath
http://about.me/chrisphin
Editor of @tapmaguk, the magazine for iPhone, iPad and iPod touch. Uses language suitable for miners, not minors. Views are mine, all mine.

Twitterrific apes the iOS version, but looks inferior on the Mac. A bit of a disappointing port in all.

>> APP LAUNCHER

Snap 1.2

59p Use keyboard shortcuts to launch apps

Developer: www.indragie.com/snap

When Mac OS X Lion arrives, Apple hopes to make launching apps easier by imitating the iOS Home screen, displaying user-definable grids of icons. This is fine for the mouse-oriented, but if you're keener on using your keyboard, shortcuts are the way to go – enter *Snap*.

By default, *Snap* automates shortcuts for pinned Dock apps. *Finder* automatically takes on ⌘+~ and subsequent apps use ⌘+1, ⌘+2 and so on. You can also define your own shortcuts for any app, which is just as well, because the abstract nature of numbers isn't as memorable as a shortcut you've defined yourself and that's more relevant for the app in question. Note that neither shortcut type overrides the other, so a pinned app can also have a user-defined shortcut. Shortcuts bring already launched but hidden apps forward and can optionally hide them if they're frontmost.

Snap is responsive and stable, and while the user-defined shortcuts process isn't as user-friendly as it might be, it doesn't detract too much from *Snap* being a focused, polished launcher.

Craig Grannell

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"An affordable and straightforward app launcher for the keyboard-oriented."

>> FACEBOOK CLIENT

FaceTab 1.0

£FREE Put Facebook in your menu bar

Developer: www.facetabapp.com

Facebook, the giant of social networking has become a kind of successor to email, event calendars and blogs, providing a means to contact friends and tell them what you're doing. The problem is that the Facebook site is a cluttered mess, and many Facebook fans prefer the mobile site over the standard one, due to its streamlined and ad-free nature, and this is more or less what the *FaceTab* app provides – but on your Mac.

On installation, a head-and-shoulders silhouette appears in the menu bar, and you click it to access your Facebook feed, profile, events and friends. There's little more to it than this. Preference settings determine the frequency of notification checks and whether *FaceTab* should be a login item. In use, the app's reasonable, despite a few quirks (accidentally click 'mobile site' and the layout messes up), although the inability to keep the window active is a pity. *FaceTab's* at least worth a look, although bear in mind you'll need *FaceTab Pro* (£1.19) to use Facebook's chat feature within the app itself.

Craig Grannell

VERDICT

★★½☆☆

"It won't blow your mind, but FaceTab's fine for checking Facebook updates."

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Master your Mac today!

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>> FIRST-PERSON PUZZLE GAME

Portal 2

£30 The sequel to one of the best games ever made is, well, also one of the best games ever made…

KEY INFO

Developer: Valve
www.steampowered.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6.7 or higher **Processor:** Intel Mac 2GHz **RAM:** 2GB **Video:** ATI Radeon 2400 or higher / NVIDIA 8600M or higher

PROS & CONS

⊕ Superb story
⊕ Epic set pieces
⊕ Same great gameplay
⊕ Added gameplay elements
⊕ Co-op mode
⊕ Funny script and top cast

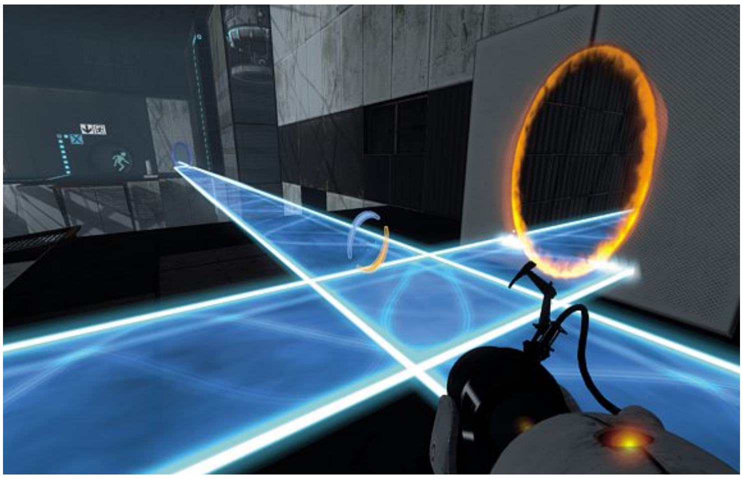
VERDICT

★★★★★

"P2 is a triumphant follow-up to an already magnificent original featuring fresh elements and a cracking story."

Portal 2 came out on 19 April. Goodness only knows how many units the game has shifted since then, so it feels a little like we're preaching to the converted here. But there are many, many Mac owners out there who have never experienced the joy of the original *Portal* and don't realise quite how big an event the release of the sequel is. So we're going to spend the next several hundred words talking about just that and, we hope, bring a whole bunch of you with us into the already sizeable *Portal* fan club.

The original *Portal* centred around the activities of Aperture Laboratories, a research company headed up by the charismatic and slightly insane Cave Johnson. In the course of trying to develop a new type of shower curtain, Johnson actually came up with a portal gun that enables its user to create a quantum tunnel between two points in space. You played Chell, a test subject who having been woken from stasis is taken through a series of tests to explore the practical uses of the portal technology. Unfortunately for you, the behaviour of Chell's guide – the silky voiced GLaDOS, a robotic research assistant – becomes increasingly erratic, with progressively challenging results for the player.



The light bridges are a stunning new feature. Use portals to redirect them over chasms.

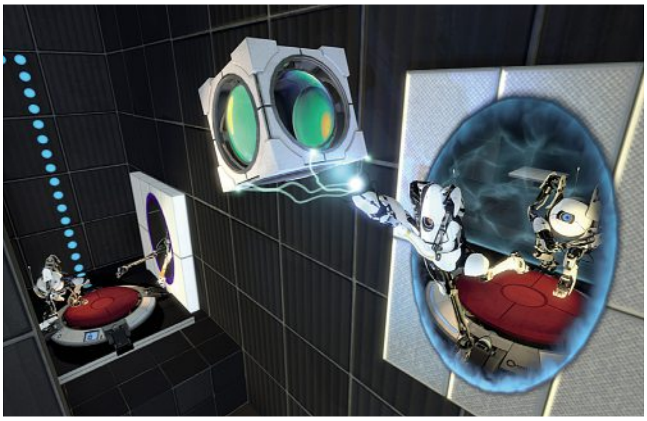
Fast forward an unspecified but extremely long period of time and this sequel begins with your character awakening from stasis only to find that Aperture Labs lies in ruin. Your immediate goal is to escape, aided and abetted by an amusing little bot called Wheatley.

And it's here we need to mention the first of the game's strengths – its storyline. *Portal 2* is set in the *Half-Life* universe with all the imposing industrial gloom and paranoia that this suggests. But in contrast, *Portal*'s story is played for laughs and the sparkling script is voiced by a roster of talented comedy actors. The affable but slightly useless Wheatley is voiced by none other than Stephen Merchant, whose contribution is never less than chucklesome but more often than not, hilarious. Aperture Labs' mad founder, Cave Johnson, is brought to life by J K Simmons (who played J Jonah Jameson in the *Spider-Man* movies) and the brilliant Ellen McLain returns as the voice of GLaDOS. It's a superb cast of characters and a significant part of the game's appeal comes from hearing the story unfold through their constant interjections. Wheatley is just plain slapstick, Cave Johnson's bluff idiocy is a joy, and GLaDOS, who's as brilliant as ever, provides a constant stream of barbed personal comments, sneering sarcasm and thinly veiled menace.

> *"Portal 2 has a superb cast of characters and a significant part of the game's appeal comes from hearing the story unfold through them"*

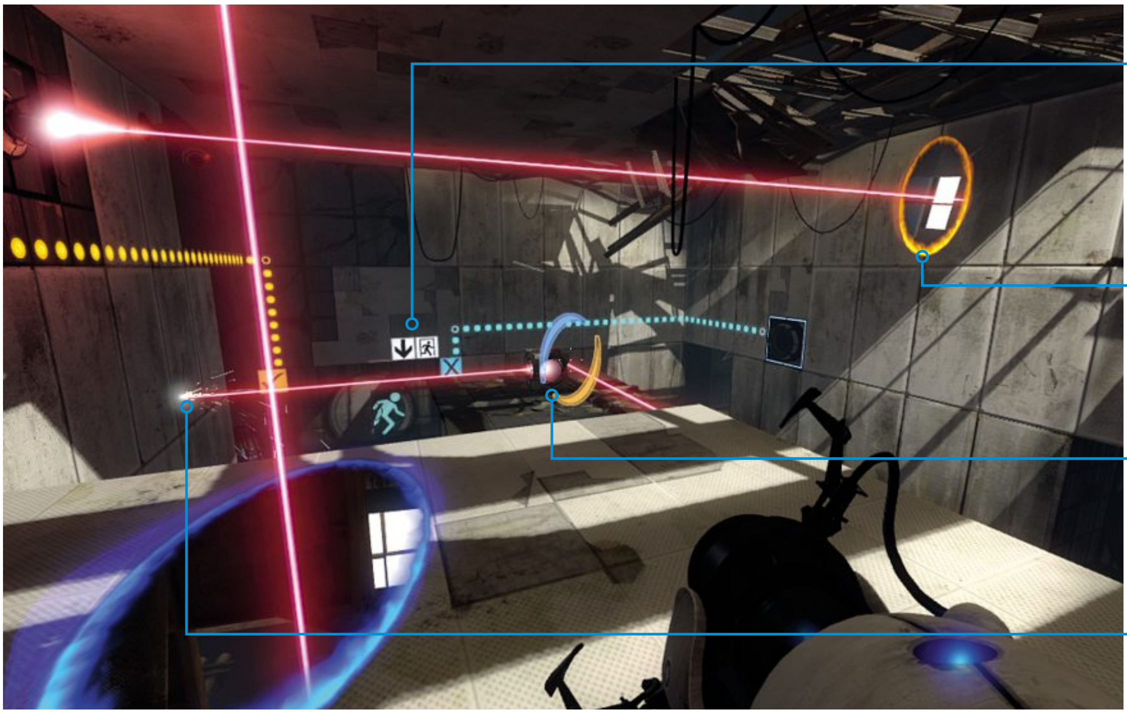
However, the real genius of *Portal 2* is its gameplay, which we'll briefly explain for the benefit of those lucky people who still have yet to discover the game. As with all the best puzzle games, the basic play mechanic is extremely simple, but in this case it can initially be a bit tricky to get your head around. You character's portal gun can create two portals – one orange and one blue – on certain flat surfaces (floors, walls, ceilings, platforms and so on) and once created they are linked, so if you step into one portal, you'll emerge from the other. This provides the basis for many intricate challenges.

For example, if a level's exit is too high to reach, you can create a portal at ground level, then another at the higher level and simply walk through to the exit. But it gets better. You can also use gravity and momentum to your advantage, so if you're on a high platform, you can create a portal on the floor far below, make another one



Say hello to the bots that you and a fellow player can control in the co-operative mode.

QUICK LOOK / The Portal 2 world at a glance



The great escape
Each level has an exit; in this case it's locked. The dotted line points the way to a solution.

Hole in the wall
Portals! Use them to transport yourself, other objects or laser beams.

Put a block in It!
Use cubes to press switches – and a whole lot more in *Portal 2*.

Light switch
Switches come in various forms; this one requires a laser beam to activate it.

in a vertical wall, then, when you jump vertically down into the first portal, you'll find yourself shooting horizontally out of the second one. And once two portals are created, creating a third will cause a previous one to disappear. In this way you can actually launch yourself through the portals and in mid-air create another one, sending yourself yet further afield. Through these relatively simple mechanisms, hugely challenging puzzles are created and the more complex they become the harder they are to explain, so we'll leave it there.

As the game progresses, more elements are brought into play which further complicate matters. Basic companion cubes that you can pick up and drop can be used to trigger pressure switches, or protect you from attack. A prismatic cube – new to *Portal 2* – can be positioned in such a way as to deflect laser beams to trigger switches or destroy threats.

Then there are the aerial faith plates – spring-loaded devices that fling you high into the air; emancipation grilles, which give you a peephole through to inaccessible areas; and robotic turrets that fire machine guns at you.

A fantastic new feature is the light bridge: true to its name, a bridge made of light that you can divert through portals to cross large chasms. Later in the game you'll encounter an amazing gel substance that enables you to bounce to great heights.

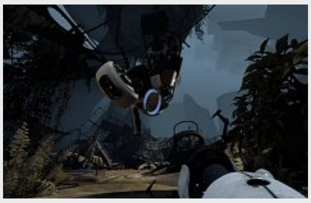
The concept of all these elements alone is pleasing enough, but it's the way they're used to create puzzles that seem initially fiendish, yet on completion quite obvious. The level design is bordering on genius and while some are more frustrating than others, there's not a single moment when you're hampered by bad design.

Before we leave you to purchase the game, we'll mention the brilliant co-op campaign. Featuring two cute portal gun-wielding bots, you and another player can attempt to work through a series of levels specially designed to test your ability to work together, with each player tripping switches, raising platforms and creating portals for each other.

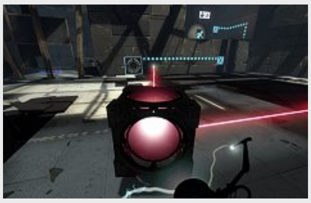
Portal 2 has to be experienced. And if you haven't played the original, we seriously recommend purchasing that too. Not because you need to in order to appreciate the sequel, but just because you'll be the proud owner of two of the best games ever made.

Andy Dyer

TOP 3 FEATURES / Valve doesn't do gimmicks…



GLaDOS to see you again
Ah, the lovely GLaDOS, with her sleek lines, soothing sexy voice, vicious sense of humour and psychotic tendencies. She's quite irresistible at the worst of times.



New cube on the block
This new prismatic cube is used to deflect laser beams into switches, mainly. But you can also use it offensively to direct lasers at Turrets. Clever stuff.

Ain't it grand?
Being set in the *Half-Life* universe, *Portal 2* is gaming on an epic scale, with vast industrial structures, claustrophobic atmosphere and some amazing set-pieces.

>> STRATEGY

Anomaly: Warzone Earth

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£5.99 It's you versus the alien hordes

KEY INFO

Developer: 11bit Studios
www.anomalythegame.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6.3 **Processor:** Intel Pentium 4 **Video:** GeForce 7600 / ATI Radeon X1800 **RAM:** 2GB

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Unique twist
- ⊕ Superb gameplay
- ⊕ Tense gameplay
- ⊖ Incredibly tough

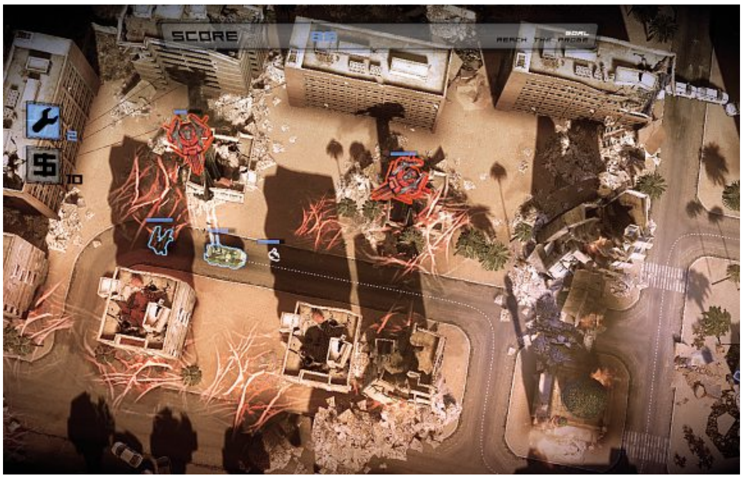
VERDICT

★★★★★

"A spectacular game, beautifully presented and intelligently designed."

These days, it seems, you can't blink without a new tower defence game popping up on the Mac App Store. Tower defence games, for those still in the dark, involve placing gun emplacements and various military units along the path of a map in order to destroy a bunch of gradually encroaching enemies, be they aliens, zombies, troops or whatever. The trouble is this type of game is so ubiquitous now that we can't help stifle a yawn at the news of each new release.

Not so with *Anomaly*, for two reasons. First, it's superbly designed and the presentation is flawless. Second, it flips the tower defence formula so you play the insurgents, trying to get past the defences.



Baghdad and Tokyo are under siege, and you have to go in there to sort out the mess.

Set in the near future, Baghdad and Tokyo are hit by asteroids and each becomes host to an anomaly – a domed forcefield the contents of which are at first a complete mystery. But it soon becomes apparent that alien invaders are the cause.

So it's up to your armoured squad to get inside the anomaly and find out what's going on. As team leader, you can move freely around, scouting for power-ups, healing damaged units and using special items. At the start of each level you must chart a route on the map; the rest of the units then follow, shooting at enemies as they go.

It's tough but hugely addictive and at times unbearably tense. It's also accompanied by some stunning visuals, with realistic environments and atmospheric cut scenes.

Andy Dyer

>> ADVENTURES

King's Quest Trilogy

£FREE Three classic Sierra adventures for free

KEY INFO

Developer: AGD Interactive
www.agdinteractive.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.4.11+ **Processor:** Intel Core Duo **RAM:** 1024MB **Video:** nVidia 8xxx, AMD 3xxx or 4xxx

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Lovingly re-imagined
- ⊕ Voice acting added
- ⊖ Clunky interface
- ⊖ Unsophisticated

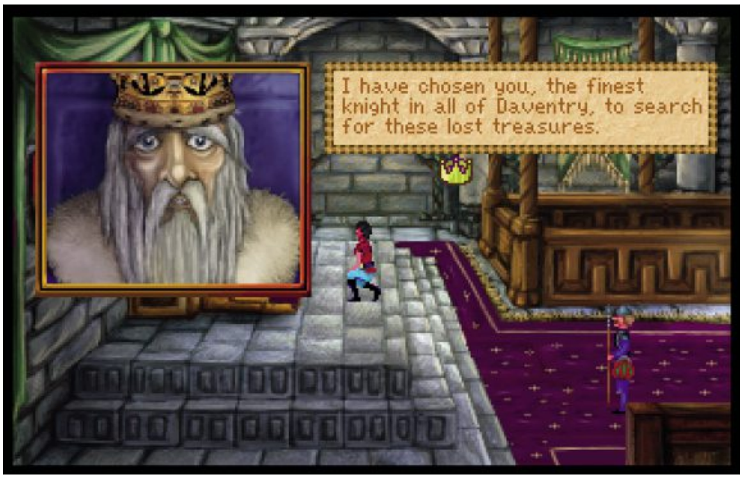
VERDICT

★★★★☆

"It's unrefined, but still a cracking way to revisit a golden era of gaming."

Thanks to new games such as the *Ankh* series and Telltale Games' *Monkey Island* remakes, the resurrection of the point-and-click adventure in recent years has been one of the happier gaming stories. And it gets happier still, with the latest release from AGD Interactive. With *King's Quest III* now available, Mac gamers can once again experience the original trilogy of classic games from erstwhile adventure factory Sierra.

The best news is these three games are free to download. AGD Interactive do make commercial titles of their own but the *King's Quest* project is very much a labour of love. Taking the original graphic adventures, AGD has added a point-and-click interface, beautiful new backdrops and voice acting to make them palatable to a new audience, and enjoyable to boot.



I have chosen you, the finest knight in all of Daventry, to search for these lost treasures.

The King is extremely worried. As you can see from his drooping beard and face.

The games, while a little clunky to play, feature imaginative storylines that can still entertain (and unintentionally amuse) even now. From the first game in which the King of Daventry sends a young hero to retrieve three artifacts, to the third in which a young man imprisoned by a wizard has to discover his true identity, the classic adventure themes are all present and correct here.

Those who will enjoy these games most are, of course, those who experienced them first time around and fancy the nostalgia hit. But given the fact that they're free, gamers both young and old should at least take a look, if only to sample a little piece of gaming history.

Andy Dyer

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>>LOCAL AMENITY FINDER

Localscope

£1.19 A better way to track down local amenities

KEY INFO

Developer: Cynapse India Pvt. Ltd
URL: www.cynapse.com
Version: 1.4
Works with: iPhone, iOS 4.0 or later

PROS & CONS

⊕ Multiple databases
⊕ Real-time direction pointer
⊕ Quickly get Maps directions
⊖ No service is perfect

VERDICT

★★★★☆

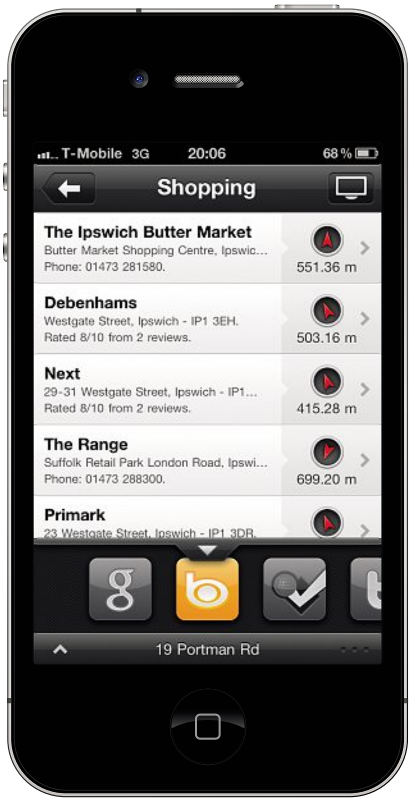
"Now you can know what's to hand with a quick search."

With its GPS and built-in *Maps* app, the iPhone's the perfect tool for discovering what's around you. But when you search the aforementioned app for, say, 'Chinese restaurants', it searches the Google database only. *Localscope* goes further by enabling you to search the Google, Bing, Foursquare, Twitter and Wikimapia services. While none on their own are perfect (our local takeaway was either missing or in the wrong place on each and every service), being able to access several databases from a single app means you've got a much greater chance of finding what you're after.

There's a standard list of things you're likely to want to find – banks, cafés and so on – and you can add your own searches and mark these as favourites, so they're just a few taps away. As well as listing the search results, we really like how the app tells you how far away each one is, updates the distance in real time as you walk, and points you in the direction of each entry. We also love the way you can easily tap through from the app to get directions to a given listing from your current location.

Alternatively, there's a map view or an augmented reality mode, the latter of which is perhaps cooler than it is useful.

Laurence Cable


T-Mobile 3G 20:06 68 %

Shopping

The Ipswich Butter Market
Butter Market Shopping Centre, Ipswic...
Phone: 01473 281580.
551.36 m

Debenhams
Westgate Street, Ipswich - IP1 3EH.
Rated 8/10 from 2 reviews.
503.16 m

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19 Portman Rd

>>WALKERS' GUIDE

Most Amazing Walks

59p Love walking? You'll love this app

Developer: Vivat Direct Limited **Version:** 1.0
Works with: iPhone, iOS 3.1.3 or later

Readers Digest
AMAZING WALKS

Find walks all across Britain with this well thought-out app from Readers' Digest. There are 199 routes each with a difficulty rating, details about the paths, points of interest to look out for, a map and facility details. And to help you decide when to go, the five-day forecast for the region in question is a thoughtful addition.

It also compiles stats as you walk, such as distance covered and average pace.

We'd like to see more walks and all counties covered in future releases, but at 59p for so many, it's a lot cheaper than a book!

Laurence Cable

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A great excuse to enjoy the summer weather. And 59p for nearly 200 walks is a bargain."

>>DIARY

Day One (Journal)

59p Hassle-free note-taking

Developer: Bloom Built, LLC **Version:** 1.1
Works with: iPhone, iPod touch, iOS 4.0 or later

Love jotting down your thoughts as they come to you, but hate having to go through the rigmarole of creating documents, filling in categories and generally faffing around? *Day One* takes the obstacles out of note-taking, so you can type and then come back to it later.

Each note is tagged with the date and time you wrote it. And while you can email entries, the app syncs to your *Dropbox*, from where the £5.99 Mac app can pick them up. It's just a shame that files it syncs aren't easily readable in a regular text editor, since your words are buried within code.

Laurence Cable

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"As a simple obstacle-free way of noting down your thoughts in an instant, this app is brilliant."

>>NEWS AGGREGATOR

Hitpad – See What's Up

£FREE Keep up with what's trending

Developer: Instant Discover, Inc **Version:** 1.3
Works with: iPad, iOS 3.2 or later

News doesn't just break through the traditional media outlets any more – Twitter and other social tools often carry big news first. *Hitpad* gives you a quick overview of the trending topics of the day, combining Google News items, tweets, videos and web pages. We love the idea because it keeps you on top of what's happening in the world irrespective of who you follow on Twitter, or which RSS feed you subscribe to. The app's drawback at the moment is that it's very US-centric, but we're told that more localised versions are in the pipeline. Keep an eye on this one.

Laurence Cable

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"A fantastic idea that's well executed, but currently a bit US-centric for a UK audience."

>>ARCADE

Atari's Greatest Hits

£FREE Now you can revisit Atari's classic arcade and console games

KEY INFO

Developer: Atari Interactive
Version: 1.0
Works with: iPad, iPhone, iPod touch, iOS 3.0 or later (Universal)

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Loads of games
- ⊕ High nostalgia value
- ⊖ Control issues
- ⊖ Only Pong is free

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"They're loads of fun, but the feel of the originals just isn't captured."

This app is proving to be somewhat Marmite-like among the iOS gamers who have taken the time to try it out. So we'll examine whether or not it deserves the punishment and plaudits people have been throwing its way.

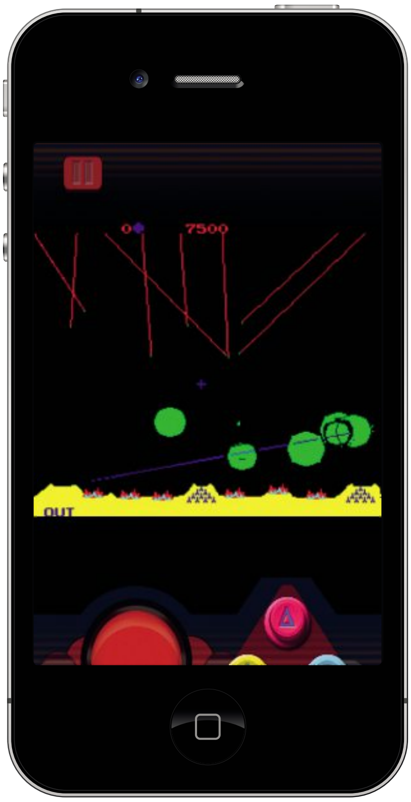
First of all, it's an emulator – or rather, two – that enable you to run original versions of classic Atari coin-ops and Atari 2600 home console games. We'll avoid commenting on the quality of the actual gameplay because it's identical to the original.

So how well does this app manage to replicate the fun of the originals? Atari's coin-ops featured robust and responsive controllers, from *Pong's* paddle and *Missile Command's* trackball through to *Battlezone's* sticks. But none of them can be properly reproduced on a touchscreen. First of all, the iPhone screen is too cramped to be of any use. On the iPad, however, everything works a lot better and the paddle, trackball, button and stick options make the games playable and enjoyable enough.

The big draw is there are 100 games to purchase (in packs of four for 59p or the lot for £8.99). The quality varies, but there's still a lot to explore.

If you're after a bit of nostalgia there's little wrong with this as a means of generating it. However, if the memory of these classic games is important, you're best off going to eBay and buying the original 2600 console or coin-op cabinet.

Andy Dyer



>>SPORTS

Snowboard Hero

£2.99 Have fun in the sun… in the snow

KEY INFO

Developer: Fishlabs
Version: 1.0
Works with: iPhone 3GS/4, iPod touch third-gen 16GB or better

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Different events
- ⊕ Unlockables and rewards
- ⊕ Superb controls
- ⊖ Not much depth

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A casual experience well suited to the iPhone platform."

We've been waiting for a decent snowboard title for iOS, and *Snowboard Hero* ticks most of the boxes for what makes a good on-piste experience.

What this isn't, is a comprehensive competition snowboarding sim. There are no star appearances, no branded goods, no real-world tournaments and no specialist disciplines.

What it is, is a straightforward series of downhill challenges with a simple career structure and rewards system, and plenty of stunt action.

Only one character is available for selection at the start of the game, and success in each of the events will result in rewards that can be used to buy new equipment and unlock new characters and whole new sets of challenges.

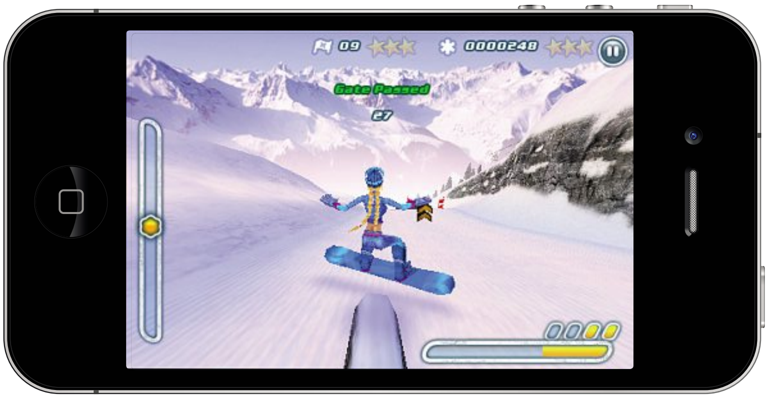
The events fall broadly into three categories comprising race, slalom and freestyle. In race (or downhill) events you're looking to complete the course as quickly as possible. Slalom involves passing through all the gates on the way down. And Freestyle is where you get to show off all the amazing tricks you've learned. The control system for stunts is superbly implemented. Following a jump you need simply to touch or swipe parts of the screen (with one or two fingers) and the relevant stunt unfolds. It's simple to memorise the gestures and for the most part easy to pull them off. The challenge comes in mixing up your stunts to score maximum points.

There are also events that combine disciplines, so you'll have a freestyle race level in which you have to both outrun and out-trick your opponent to gather maximum rewards.

A Record Chaser mode enables you to set your own records and rank them alongside others in the Game Center.

Snowboard Hero is certainly a casual take on the sport of snowboarding, but what's here is pulled off with efficiency and slickness and sits very comfortably on the iPhone platform.

Andy Dyer



Snow has never been so slidey. However, we would've liked the opportunity to build a snowman.

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LANSING

Six sound systems sock it to us; but which one was the king of streaming?

Words: Nick Odzantis **Photography:** Gavin Roberts

Wireless sound systems

Drop the cables and listen to your music untethered with one of these six wireless speaker systems

Wireless technology has been around for a few years now, helping us to work freely at our desks and allowing us to connect to the internet wherever we are. This freedom has now been extended to other areas of technology, the most recent being in the music we listen to with wireless sound systems.

Wireless speakers enable you to play the songs stored on your Mac or iPhone without having to move a muscle. The music can be streamed over conventional wireless or via the newer (and more reliable) Bluetooth wireless standard directly to your speakers, which you can place anywhere in the room without having to worry about cabled connections.

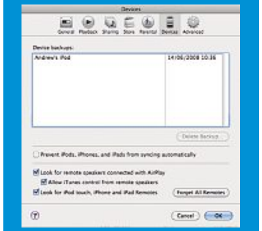
Once you've untethered yourself from a speaker system, you'll never want to go back to the inconvenience of having to connect wires to listen to your music. But with very few wireless sound systems on the market at the moment, and each one offering a very different solution, choosing the right one is vital. Does it have the sound quality you demand? Is it easy to set up and use? Is it good value for money? These are all things you need to think about when choosing a wireless sound system. But to save you the hassle, we tested six of the best currently available systems and picked our favourite. »

> *"With very few wireless sound systems on the market, choosing the right one is vital"*

» DID YOU KNOW THIS?

AirPlay connects a wireless speaker to your Wi-Fi network, so you can stream *iTunes* tracks on your Mac to it.

To play music from other sources, such as Spotify, go for a Bluetooth system.



Device backups:

Andrew's iPod 14/06/2008 10:16

☐ Prevent iPods, iPhones, and iPads from syncing automatically

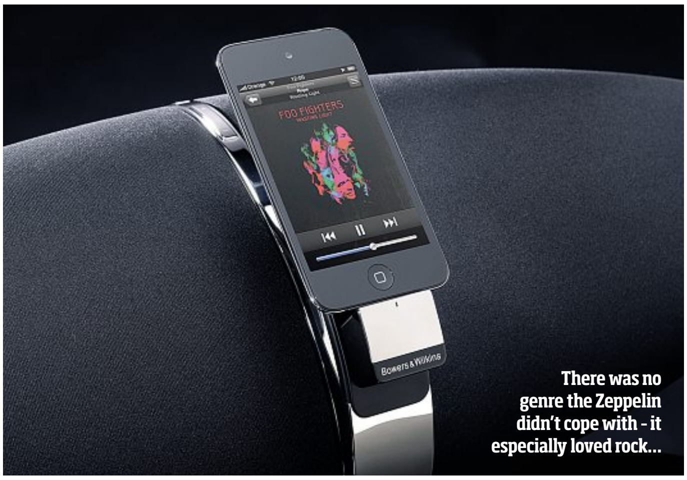
☑ Look for remote speakers connected with AirPlay

☑ Allow iTunes control from remote speakers

☑ Look for iPod touch, iPhone and iPad Remotes

» WIRELESS SPEAKERS / At a glance

Product	**Altec Lansing inMotion Air**	**B&W Zeppelin Air**	**Creative ZiiSound D5**	**ION Audio ANYROOM**	**Pioneer XW-NAC3**	**Soundfreaq SFQ-01**
Price	£168	£500	£232	£130	£250	£190
Manufacturer	Altec Lansing	Bowers & Wilkins	Creative	ION Audio	Pioneer	Soundfreaq
Website	www.alteclansing.com	www.bowers-wilkins.co.uk	uk.creative.com	www.ionaudio.com	www.pioneer.eu	www.soundfreaq.com
Wireless	Bluetooth	AirPlay	Bluetooth	Wi-Fi dongle	Bluetooth	Bluetooth
Remote control	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Drivers	2x full range	2x tweeters, 2x mid-range, 1x subwoofer	2x full range	2x tweeters, 2x mid-range	2x full range	2x full range
Inputs	Headphones, line-out jack	iPod/iPhone dock, Ethernet, 3.5mm audio jack	iPod/iPhone dock, 3.5mm audio jack	Stereo speakers	2 x iPod/iPhone docks, USB, 3.5mm audio jack, Ethernet, composite video out	iPod/iPhone dock, 3.5mm audio jack
Dimensions	335mm x 90mm x 105mm	640mm x 208mm x 173mm	425mm x 90mm x 110mm	406mm x 114mm x 209mm	410mm x 134mm x 153mm	300mm x 151.5mm x 150mm
Weight	2kg	6.2kg	3.8kg	3.1kg	2.9kg	3.6kg


There was no genre the Zeppelin didn't cope with – it especially loved rock…

»TEST ONE

Audio quality

Which makes your music really come alive?

This is probably the most important part of the test. There's one that just about stands out from the crowd and that's the B&W Zeppelin Air. It's not that different in terms of quality, but what it does offer above the others is a much larger sound, reminiscent of a 2.1 speaker setup with oodles of low-end grunt. It can be a tad overpowering at times, but overall it's got the most solid, hi-fi-esque sound.

Tailing just behind the Zeppelin is the Pioneer XW-NAC3 which, given it's one of the smallest systems, belts out a surprising amount of sound. There's a lot of detail in the music, and the sound benefits greatly from its ALC setting, which is a type of sound boost especially designed to enhance streamed music.

The ION Audio device is the weakest system here. It's certainly nice and loud when you wind it up, but it lacks the quality of the others in this test – the sound just feels a little bit cheap and messier than the others.

»TEST RESULTS

Altec Lansing inMotion Air	★★★☆☆
B&W Zeppelin Air	★★★★★
Creative ZiiSound D5	★★★½☆
ION Audio ANYROOM	★★☆☆☆
Pioneer XW-NAC3	★★★★☆
Soundfreaq SFQ-01	★★★★☆

»TEST TWO

Ease of use

How simple are they to set up and stream music to?

None of the systems are that tricky to use, although you will need to pair each of the Bluetooth systems each time you want to play music. It's worth noting that when pairing the Pioneer XW-NAC3 you need the remote – if it goes walkies you won't be able to do this.

The B&W is the most time-consuming to set up, simply because you have to connect it to your computer with an Ethernet cable so that you can add the Zeppelin Air to your home network. But once that's done it redeems itself by being the easiest of all to use. From then on, you just simply load *iTunes* and select it from the AirPlay list and you can start playing songs.

The ION Audio is one of the easier sound systems to use as the included Wi-Fi dongle requires no setting-up or pairing – you just plug and play. However, it's only compatible with an iPod or iPhone, so you won't be able to use your Mac unless a compatible dongle becomes available.

»TEST RESULTS

Altec Lansing inMotion Air	★★★★☆
B&W Zeppelin Air	★★★★½
Creative ZiiSound D5	★★★★☆
ION Audio ANYROOM	★★★★½
Pioneer XW-NAC3	★★★½☆
Soundfreaq SFQ-01	★★★★☆

None of these systems were awful to use, but some just made our lives a bit easier.

» HOW WE TESTED / The music genre method

Each wireless speaker system was placed in the corner of a large living room, on top of a solid wooden cabinet and we listened from a distance of 10 feet away, facing the system. The equalizer settings in *iTunes* were left at neutral to keep each sound test consistent and we tested each system at maximum volume to see where distortion became apparent. Where an iPod/iPhone dock was present, the test was repeated.

A variety of songs were used to test the audio abilities of each system, and the test was conducted on the same day to make sure the listener's ears were attuned to the music. Kings of Leon's – *Knocked Up* was employed for its bolshie vocals and wailing electric guitars, Mozart's *Vesperae Solennes de Confession* to see how they coped with a wide assortment of orchestral instruments and a high-pitch alto voice over a range of volume levels, and Prodigy's *Climbatize* to see whether each system could handle the speed and intensity of its complicated bassline.

iTunes Sidebar
Ping
A social network for music.
Join the conversation.
Learn More
Hide Sidebar

From deep bassy tones to high-pitch squealing, could they cope?

>> TEST THREE

Value for money

Is it worth the hard-earned cash you're forking out?

Although wireless sound systems are a fairly new type of technology, they shouldn't be unobtainable.

The B&W Zeppelin Air is a great bit of kit, but it comes at a price – £500. This is twice that of the next most expensive sound system here. Considering the Zeppelin Air is quite a simple setup, with extras limited to a remote control and a dock, it doesn't represent value for money.

Tied for second place are the SoundFreaq SFQ-01 and the Altec Lansing InAir Motion systems. Both are under the £200 mark and offer great sound, Bluetooth and a remote control.

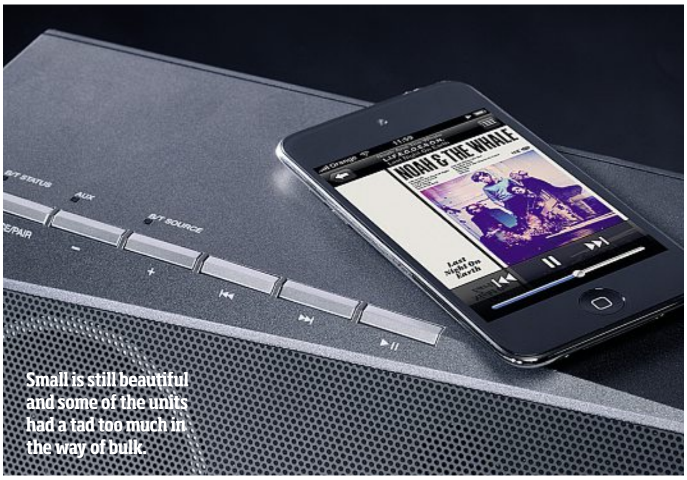
But the winner by quite some way is the Pioneer XW-NAC3, which comes with a plethora of features that none of the other systems in the test can even dream of matching. The double dock means that you and another person can share your music tastes and it also doubles as an internet radio, so you can listen to your music in more ways than one.

>> TEST RESULTS

Altec Lansing inMotion Air	★★★★☆
B&W Zeppelin Air	★★⯪☆☆
Creative ZiiSound D5	★★★☆☆
ION Audio ANYROOM	★★★☆☆
Pioneer XW-NAC3	★★★★★
Soundfreaq SFQ-01	★★★★☆

SOUND|FREAQ

Don't freaq out at paying near £200 for this top system.



Small is still beautiful and some of the units had a tad too much in the way of bulk.

>> TEST FOUR

Design and build

Will they complement your home or clash with it?

Although design is quite a subjective thing, it's worth making several points about the sound systems here.

The B&W is something to marvel at and it's built like a tank, but one person's Zeppelin is another person's blimp. Compared to the other docks in the test it's significantly bigger – or wider, we should say – so check that it'll fit wherever you want to put it.

We liked the Soundfreaq SFQ-01 and the Creative D5, which feel well put-together and have a slab-style look, and would easily complement any modern décor. The SFQ-01 has a built-in door at the side that houses the remote control, keeping it neatly tucked out of the way. Both also have very compact dimensions, so they'll fit in any space around the house.

At the bottom of the rung is ION Audio's system, which feels as if it's been built and designed by a DIY hobbyist than a professional audiophile engineer. It's quite large too, so no doubt it'll struggle to fit into your home space.

>> TEST RESULTS

Altec Lansing inMotion Air	★★★☆☆
B&W Zeppelin Air	★★★★☆
Creative ZiiSound D5	★★★★☆
ION Audio ANYROOM	★★⯪☆☆
Pioneer XW-NAC3	★★★⯪☆
Soundfreaq SFQ-01	★★★★☆

>> THE WINNER / Pioneer XW-NAC3

Apart from the ION Audio ANYROOM, which is the weakest system here, all the units delivered a great performance, with only minor differences separating them.

For pure audio quality the Zeppelin Air and Pioneer XW-NAC3 were practically on a par, with the Zeppelin just offering a slightly fuller sound. The Zeppelin is easy to use, but the price is steep. The XW-NAC3 is a better all-round system offering a lot more functionality for a great price, hence it wins. No other system offers the features the XW-NAC3 does.

If you're on a tighter budget and would be happy to sacrifice these features, we recommend the Soundfreaq SFQ-01. It's got a powerful and accurate sound output from a small package.

>> FINAL RESULTS

Altec Lansing inMotion Air	★★★☆☆
B&W Zeppelin Air	★★★★☆
Creative ZiiSound D5	★★★⯪☆
ION Audio ANYROOM	★★☆☆☆
Pioneer XW-NAC3	★★★★⯪
Soundfreaq SFQ-01	★★★★☆

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"The iPad 2 is light, portable and the perfect size to use as an ebook reader"

WHY YOU SHOULD BUY APPLE'S NEW IPAD 2 P118

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Buyers' Guide

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Tim Hardwick
Production Editor

The mid-2011 iMac refresh is more significant than it looks. Even though the form factor is unchanged, this is no minor update. The entire iMac range now has quad-core Intel Core i5 processors; these are the second-generation Sandy Bridge Core-series chips that were very well received in the early 2011 MacBook Pro refresh we covered in *MF233* and *MF234*. The new processors are up to 1.7 times as fast as their predecessors.

The iMac's graphics have undergone an update too, with the new discrete GPUs offering up to three times the power of those used in the previous generation. USB 2.0 and FireWire 800 ports are joined by the new Thunderbolt port, an incredibly versatile I/O solution that made its Mac debut on the MacBook Pros earlier this year. Also, the integrated camera is now a 720p FaceTime HD. There's never been a better time to update your Apple desktop computer!

>> BUYING ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST

Our mission is to ensure that when you buy a Mac-related product, you are completely informed about its best and worst features. We have a cast-iron policy of editorial independence. **For the latest prices and full review see the TechRadar URL listed next to each review.**

How to buy a new Mac

Not sure which Mac to buy? We'll help you choose!

»DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The Mac Pro is also available in a Server Edition. Out of the box, it boasts a 2.8GHz CPU, two 1TB hard drives, 8GB of memory and the Server Edition of Snow Leopard.

Apple sells its products every which way at once. You can buy a Mac direct from the online Apple Store (**http://store.apple.com/uk**); from one of the growing number of bricks-and-mortar Apple Stores around the country; from official 'Apple shops' within department stores, staffed by certified Apple Solutions Consultants; and from hundreds of independent Apple Authorised Resellers and Premium Resellers, variously selling online or on the high street.

The bigger independents buy direct from Apple, while others go through a network of distributors, listed at **www.apple.com/uk/buy/distributors**. Given this range of outlets, shopping around for your Mac could save you money – but probably not very much. There simply isn't much profit margin for independent dealers to knock off. The Mac's popularity means Apple doesn't have to leave a big gap between its wholesale prices and Apple Store prices – effectively the minimum and maximum level at which retailers can sell their wares.

Authorised Resellers may knock a few pounds off Apple Store prices, and can also sell you other kit at competitive prices. Although you may find fractionally lower prices online, by choosing a local dealer you could get the benefit of trying before you buy and having someone on hand to answer questions. Either way, Mac resellers tend to be very knowledgeable and keen to help.

There are a couple of other ways to cut the cost of a new Mac. Business buyers can save a fortune by reclaiming the VAT and offsetting the purchase against tax. If you're not eligible, you may still qualify for a discount from Apple. Any student or teacher can get special pricing, as listed at **http://bit.ly/jowOkc**. That includes schoolkids. The reductions aren't huge, but they're worth having. For example, a top-of-the-range 27-inch iMac lists for £1,550, compared to the regular price of £1,649. Authorised Resellers can access these special rates and may even shave a bit more off for you.

"Cut the cost of your new Mac. Business users can save a fortune by reclaiming the VAT and offsetting the purchase against tax"

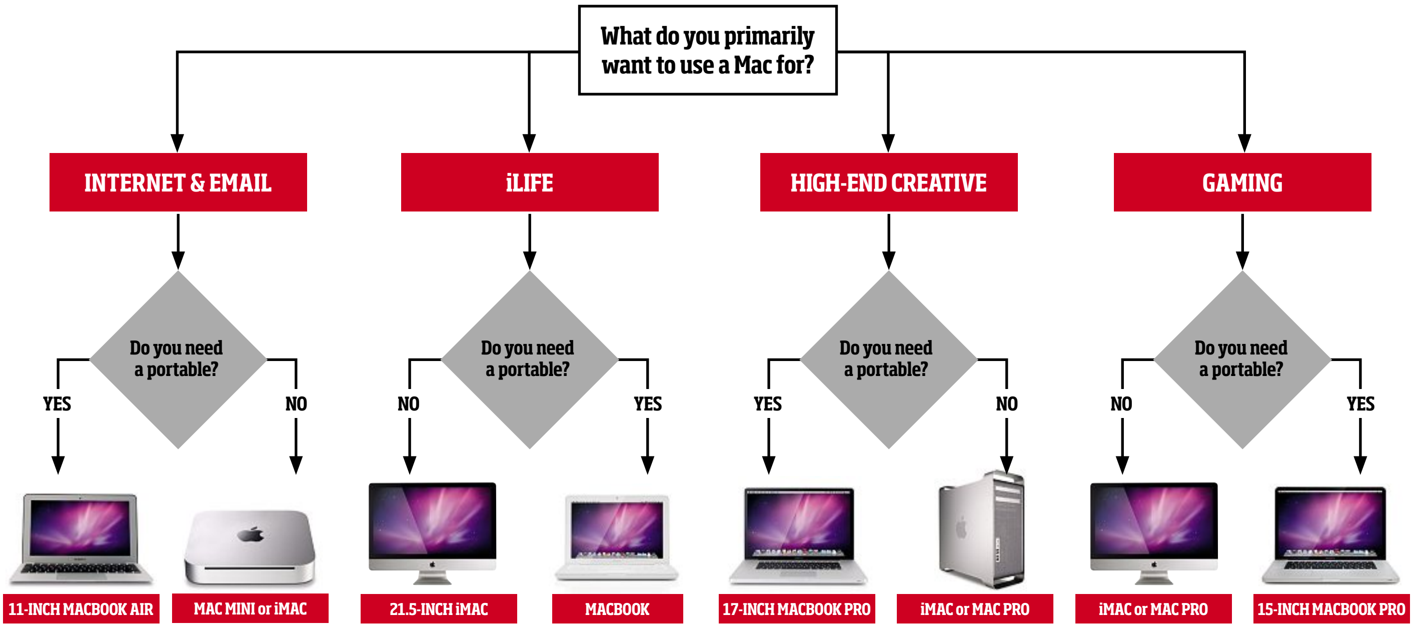
To help you find the cash, Apple also offers financing options. For consumers, this spreads the payments, though you do pay interest. For businesses, flexible leasing knocks more off your tax bill and lets you upgrade your hardware – and indeed software – when necessary without spending big chunks of capital. You can find out plenty more at **www.apple.com/uk/financing**.

Your budget will stretch even further with clearance, refurb and second-user deals. If you can suppress your envy of marginally newer, shinier kit, the best time to shop for a Mac is

The mid-2011 refresh brought quad-core Sandy Bridge processors to the iMac range.

The Mac Pro offers an ATI Radeon HD 5770 with 1GB GDDR5 graphics card, a 1TB hard drive and an 18x SuperDrive.

CHOOSING A MAC / Which one is right for you?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Do you need a portable?
NO
YES
21.5-INCH iMAC
MACBOOK
Do you need a portable?
YES
NO
17-INCH MACBOOK PRO
iMAC or MAC PRO
Do you need a portable?
NO
YES
iMAC or MAC PRO
15-INCH MACBOOK PRO

just after Apple brings out new models. Wander down to John Lewis and you're quite likely to find the last of the old range with three-figure reductions. Do check the specs against the incoming versions, which will offer more for the same original price, but at the bottom end of the range you could pay less than the current entry-level for a perfectly good machine. Anywhere that holds Macs in stock is similarly worth a raid, and online retailers also have clearance bins.

Saving money

Apple itself has a surprisingly little-known online bargain basement at http://store.apple.com/uk/browse/home/specialdeals/mac. It's a treasure trove of cut-price kit, with some clearance items and many described as 'refurbished'. This usually means someone's bought a Mac, then changed their mind or found a problem and sent it back. Industry insiders tell us these returns often have absolutely nothing wrong with them, and in any case they're fully tested and any faults fixed before they're resold. They're guaranteed for a full year, extendable up to three years via AppleCare.

Besides deciding who to buy from, there's the tricky question of which Mac to pick. You can have a MacBook, MacBook Pro, MacBook Air, Mac mini, iMac or Mac Pro. Most Mac families offer several standard models, plus plenty of built-to-order options, adding up to hundreds of possibilities.

By comparing the prices of different configurations – easily done at http://store.apple.com/uk – you can suss out the best value. For example, the entry-level 21.5-inch iMac is a bargain at £999. If you want a higher spec, the next option doubles the hard disk space and adds a more powerful graphics card, but it's an extra £250. However, you're not limited to the preset models. By clicking the Select button, you can tweak the listed specifications to create your own Mac. The only downside is that you'll need to allow a week or two for your own personal Mac to arrive.

Just think of it as an exercise in delayed gratification.

There's an Apple laptop for everyone, from the entry-level MacBook to the high-end MB Pro.

> *"There's the tricky question of which Mac to pick. You can plump for a MacBook, MacBook Pro, MacBook Air, Mac mini, iMac or Mac Pro"*

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The latest MacBook Pros, released in February 2011, have new Sandy Bridge processors, great new graphics solutions and the new ultra-fast Thunderbolt connectivity port.

How to choose the perfect Mac

Let us help you make the right purchase. Here are your options…

21.5-inch 2.5GHz

£999

• 2.5GHz quad-core Intel Core i5 • 21.5-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,080 pixels)• 4GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • 500GB hard drive • 8x double-layer SuperDrive • AMD Radeon HD 6750M graphics with 512MB GDDR5 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 port; 1x Thunderbolt port; 1xSDXC card slot • Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '11, Magic Mouse, keyboard

21.5-inch 2.7GHz

£1,249

• 2.7GHz quad-core Intel Core i5 • 21.5-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,080 pixels) • 4GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • 1TB hard drive • 8x double-layer SuperDrive • AMD Radeon HD 6770M graphics with 512MB GDDR5 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 port; 1x Thunderbolt port; 1xSDXC card slot • Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '11, Magic Mouse, keyboard

27-inch 2.7GHz

£1,399

• 2.7GHz quad-core Intel Core i5 • 27-inch glossy widescreen (2560x1440 pixels)• 4GB RAM (expndable to up to 16GB) • 1TB hard drive • 8x double-layer SuperDrive • AMD Radeon HD 6770M graphics with 512MB GDDR5 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 port; 2x Thunderbolt ports; 1xSDXC card slot • Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '11, Magic Mouse, keyboard

27-inch 3.1GHz

£1,649

• 3.1GHz quad core Intel Core i5 • 27-inch glossy widescreen (2560x1440 pixels) • 4GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • 1TB hard drive • 8x double-layer SuperDrive • AMD Radeon HD 6970M graphics with 1GB GDDR5 memory-• 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 port; 2x Thunderbolt port; 1xSDXC card slot • Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '11, Magic Mouse, keyboard

iMac

Updated May 2011

Mac mini

Updated June 2010

>> DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The Mac mini also comes in a Server Edition, which has no optical drive, but boasts twin 500GB hard drives.

2.4GHz 320GB

£612

- 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 2GB RAM (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 320GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm hard drive
- 3MB shared L2 cache
- NVIDIA GeForce 320M with 256MB of shared DDR3 SDRAM
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- AirPort Extreme (802.11n)
- 1x FireWire 800 port
- 4x USB 2.0 • SD card slot
- Snow Leopard, iLife '11
- HDMI to DVI adapter

Quad-Core

£2,041

• 2.8GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon • 3GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • ATI Radeon HD 5770 with 1GB of GDDR5 memory • Two Mini DisplayPorts, one DVI port • 1TB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • 4x PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FW 800 ports • Keyboard with numerical keypad & Magic Mouse

8 -Core

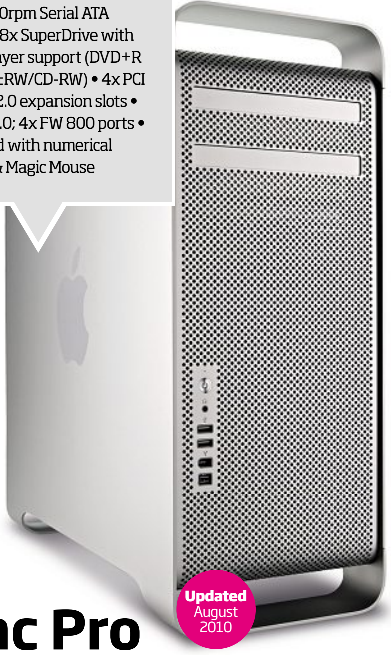
£2,859

• Two 2.4GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon • 6GB RAM (expandable to up to 32GB) • ATI Radeon HD 5770 with 1GB of GDDR5 memory • Two Mini DisplayPorts, one DVI port • 1TB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • 4x PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FW 800 ports • Keyboard with numerical keypad & Magic Mouse

12-Core

£4,083

• Two 2.6GHz 6-Core Intel Xeon • 6GB RAM (expandable to up to 32GB) • ATI Radeon HD 5770 with 1GB of GDDR5 memory • Two Mini DisplayPorts, one DVI port • 1TB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • 3x PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FW 800 ports • Keyboard with numerical keypad & Magic Mouse



Mac Pro

Updated August 2010

13-inch 2.3GHz

£999

• 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 2.3GHz dual-core Intel Core i5 processor • 7-hour battery • 4GB (two 2GB SO-DIMMs) of 1333MHz DDR3 memory • 320GB, 5,400rpm hard drive • 8x slot-loading SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • Intel HD Graphics 3000 • Mac OS X 10.6 and iLife '11 • 1x Thunderbolt port, 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SDXC card slot

13-inch 2.7GHz

£1,299

• 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 2.7GHz dual-core Intel Core i7 processor • 7-hour battery • 4GB (two 2GB SO-DIMMs) of 1333MHz DDR3 memory • 500GB, 5,400rpm hard drive • 8x slot-loading SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • Intel HD Graphics 3000 • Mac OS X 10.6 and iLife '11 • 1x Thunderbolt port, 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SDXC card slot

15-inch 2.0GHz

£1,549

• 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels • 2.0GHz quad-core Intel Core i7, 6MB shared L3 cache • 4GB 1333MHz DDR3 memory • 500GB, 5,400rpm hard drive • 8x slot-loading SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • AMD Radeon HD 6490M graphics processor with 256MB of GDDR5 memory • Mac OS X 10.6 and iLife '11 • 1x Thunderbolt port, 1x FW 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SDXC slot

15-inch 2.2GHz

£1,849

• 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels • 2.2GHz quad-core Intel Core i7, 6MB shared L3 cache • 4GB 1333MHz DDR3 memory • 750GB, 5,400rpm hard drive • 8x slot-loading SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • AMD Radeon HD 6750M graphics processor with 1GB of GDDR5 memory • Mac OS X 10.6 and iLife '11 • 1x Thunderbolt port, 1x FW 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SDXC slot

13-inch white 2.4GHz

£867

• 13.3-inch glossy widescreen, 1,280x800 pixels • 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo • 3MB shared L2 cache • 2GB RAM (2x DDR3SDRAM) • 250GB Serial ATA,5,400rpm • 8x SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 320M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM • AirPort Extreme • Built-in iSight video camera • Bluetooth 2.0

Updated May 2010

MacBook

11-inch models

£867/£1,020

• 1.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor • 11.6-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen at 1366x768 pixels • 64GB or 128GB of flash storage • NVIDIA GeForce 320M graphics processor with 256MB of DDR3 SDRAM • 2GB of 1066MHz DDR3 SDRAM • Five-hour battery life, or 30 days on standby • Built-in FaceTime camera • 2x USB 2.0 ports, Ethernet, Mini DisplayPort

13-inch models

£1,122/£1378 • 1.86GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor • 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen at 1440x900 pixels • 128GB or 256GB of flash storage • NVIDIA GeForce 320M graphics processor with 256MB of DDR3 SDRAM • 2GB of 1066MHz DDR3 SDRAM • Seven-hour battery life, or 30 days on standby • Built-in FaceTime camera • 2x USB 2.0 ports, Ethernet, Mini DisplayPort • SD reader

Updated October 2010

MacBook Air

17-inch 2.2GHz

£2,099

• 17-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,920x1,200 pixels • 2.2GHz quad-core Intel Core i7, 6MB shared L3 cache • 4GB 1333MHz DDR3 memory • 750GB, 5,400rpm hard drive • 8x slot-loading SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • AMD Radeon HD 6750M graphics processor with 1GB of GDDR5 memory • Mac OS X 10.6, iLife '11 • 1x Thunderbolt port, 1x FireWire 800, 3x USB 2.0, 1x ExpressCard/34 slot

Updated Feb 2011

MacBook Pro

What about an iPhone or iPad?

Apple's mobile devices are designed to sync perfectly with your Mac

>> DID YOU KNOW THIS?

There are several models of Apple's iPad 2 to choose from. You can select storage capacities of 16GB, 32GB and 64GB. Each of these are available with Wi-Fi-only connectivity, or Wi-Fi and 3G.

Both the iPhone and iPad have a touchscreen, come with email and web-browsing applications and are capable of running third-party apps that you can get from Apple's App Store. But the iPad isn't simply a bigger iPhone. The iPhone is first and foremost a phone, and like all mobile phones, unless you buy it on Pay as You Go (which makes the device itself much more expensive) you're going to be tied into a phone contract.

If you want all the features of the iPhone but without the phone part, then consider getting an iPod touch instead (see over the page). If you're looking for a phone then you'll find the iPhone is designed to cover all your data needs while you're on the go, and fits in your pocket.

The iPhone 4 has a much better screen than previous models. This Retina display has a 960x640 pixel resolution.

Use your iPad 2 to surf the web, run apps, send and receive emails, and listen to your music.

In contrast, the iPad is a device that sits somewhere between an iPhone and a Mac. It also comes with a 3G data contract option, but that doesn't include phone calls. The only phone calls you can make with it will be digitally, using VoIP apps, such as *Skype*. While a lot of people find the iPhone perfectly acceptable for home use, if you just need to check your email or do a quick bit of web surfing, the iPad is positively designed to be used from your sofa. It has built-in Wi-Fi, which means you can check emails and browse the web on your wireless network at home. Here it would fulfil most functions of a laptop, but don't fall into the trap of thinking of the iPad as a replacement for a home computer.

> *"The iPad uses solid-state memory, so it's pretty-much instant on. There's no waiting around for it to boot up. It's also lightweight"*

It's fundamentally designed to be an accessory. You're meant to keep your data on your Mac and sync your iPad with it, not the other way around.

It does have some big advantages over a Mac laptop, though. For a start, because it uses solid-state memory it's pretty-much instant on. There's no waiting around for it to boot up. It's also lightweight, extremely portable and the perfect size to be used as an ebook reader.

The iPhone currently comes in two versions, the 3GS and iPhone 4. The latest model, the iPhone 4, features a stunning new 960x640 high-resolution display, making it much easier to read on-screen text. The screen itself is now IPS (in plane switching) for great viewing angles. However you hold it, the colours won't shift. There's also a front-facing camera for video chat and HD video recording using the rear camera.

The iPad 2 comes in black and white, each in three capacities, 16GB, 32GB and 64GB, available in Wi-Fi or Wi-Fi + 3G versions. Each 3G version costs £100 more than a Wi-Fi-only model with a similar memory capacity. Prices start at £399 for the 16GB Wi-Fi version, and go up to £659 for the top-range 64GB Wi-Fi + 3G iPad.

iPad 2

Updated March 2011

iPad 16GB
£399 Wi-Fi
£499 Wi-Fi + 3G

• 9.7-inch LED-widescreen, 1024x768 pixels • 1GHz dual core Apple A5 CPU • 25Wh battery gives up to 10 hours use • 3.5mm stereo headphone jack • Built-in speaker & mic • 720p, 30 fps rear-facing camera, VGA front camera • Available in black or white • 241.2x185.7x8.8mm • 601g (Wi-Fi), 613g (Wi-Fi + 3G) • Accelerometer, three-axis gyro, ambient light sensor

iPad 32GB
£479 Wi-Fi
£579 Wi-Fi + 3G

• 9.7-inch LED-widescreen, 1024x768 pixels • 1GHz dual core Apple A5 CPU • 25Wh battery gives up to 10 hours use • 3.5mm stereo headphone jack • Built-in speaker & mic • 720p, 30 fps rear-facing camera, VGA front camera • Available in black or white • 241.2x185.7x8.8mm • 601g (Wi-Fi), 613g (Wi-Fi + 3G) • Accelerometer, three-axis gyro, ambient light sensor

iPad 64GB
£559 Wi-Fi
£699 Wi-Fi + 3G

• 9.7-inch LED-widescreen, 1024x768 pixels • 1GHz dual core Apple A5 CPU • 25Wh battery gives up to 10 hours use • 3.5mm stereo headphone jack • Built-in speaker & mic • 720p, 30 fps rear-facing camera, VGA front camera • Available in black or white • 241.2x185.7x8.8mm • 601g (Wi-Fi), 613g (Wi-Fi + 3G) • Accelerometer, three-axis gyro, ambient light sensor

iPhone

Updated June 2010

iPhone 3GS 8GB
£428 (Pay & Go)

• Available in black
• 3.5-inch widescreen
• 320x480 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
• Photo and video geotagging
• Battery lasts up to 30 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 12 hours (talktime)
• 115.5x62.1x12.3mm
• 135g • Requires Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later

iPhone 4 16GB
£510 (Pay & Go)

• Available in black or white
• 3.5-inch widescreen
• 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
• Photo and video geotagging
• Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 14 hours (talktime)
• 115.5x58.6x9.3mm
• 137g • Requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later

iPhone 4 32GB
£612 (Pay & Go)

• Available in black or white
• 3.5-inch widescreen
• 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/n) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
• Photo and video geotagging
• Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 14 hours (talktime)
• 115.5x58.6x9.3mm
• 137g • Requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later

>> APPS EVERYWHERE

The iPad, iPhone and the iPod touch featured over the page can all install and run apps from Apple's App Store. Many of these apps (such as the Facebook app, or *Twitteriffic*) are free, but even the paid-for apps are inexpensive compared to the prices of software for the Mac. However, there's one obvious problem: the iPad has a 9.7-inch screen, while the iPhone has a 3.5-inch screen. Obviously, apps designed to run on the iPhone are going to look tiny on the iPad's larger display.

To make them fit, Apple has introduced something called 'pixel doubling'. Every pixel in the app is doubled, so the app becomes twice the size it was before, thus filling the screen (well, pretty much). You also have the option of running the app at its native resolution on the iPad if you prefer, although this can look strange as the app then sits in a sea of blackness. The pixel-doubling approach can make apps look a little bit fuzzy, especially games, but it appears to be a good enough solution for most apps.

Apple is, of course, encouraging developers to design apps specifically for the iPad's larger screen, so if you're an iPad owner, look out for iPad-only versions of your favourite apps from the App Store. Not only do they look better than their iPhone originals, but the larger screen size means developers can fit extra controls and features into the interface. That means more fun to be had in games, for example.

Some apps are only be available for the iPad. Apple is starting the ball rolling here by releasing its *iWork* suite (consisting of *Pages*, *Numbers* and *Keynote*) for the iPad only. Conversely, apps that utilise the camera on the iPhone obviously won't work on the iPad. Look out for apps with a '+' symbol next to their price on the App store. This means the apps will work perfectly on both iPad and iPhone.

Apps that take advantage of the iPad's larger screen are becoming more common.

Choosing an iPod

Which model is best for you?

The September 2010 iPod refresh saw every model except the classic updated. The shuffle returned to its old form factor, regaining its on-body controls, but retaining VoiceOver technology that lets the iPod read the title and artist information. For reasons unspecified, the 4GB model has disappeared, leaving only a 2GB iPod shuffle.

The iPod nano underwent the most radical overhaul. The latest model features a square design with touchscreen controls, but has lost its video camera. It's a lot smaller and lighter, though, so you might consider this a fair trade.

Unsurprisingly, the iPod touch benefits from technologies introduced with the iPhone 4, such as a Retina Display and FaceTime. It also has a rear-facing camera that can record 720p HD. And don't forget the iPod classic, which still offers the best price per GB. ●

iPod shuffle

Updated September 2010

iPod shuffle 2GB

£40

- Up to 500 songs
- No ability to display photos or videos
- Available in five colours; silver, blue, green, yellow, pink • No screen, but the control pad returns
- VoiceOver technology lets your iPod talk to you
- 3.5-mm stereo headphone jack is used for both audio out and USB charging
- Battery lasts up to 15 hours
- 29x31.6x8.7mm • 12.5g

iPod nano

Updated September 2010

9:41 AM
Playlists
Now Playing
Artists
Genius M

iPod nano 8GB

£131

- Up to 2,000 songs
- Up to 7,000 photos
- Includes Nike+iPod support
- Available in silver, black, blue, green, yellow, pink and red (Apple Store exclusive)
- 1.54-inch diagonal Multi-Touch screen • 240x240 pixel resolution (220 pixels per inch) • Battery lasts up to 24 hours • Includes VoiceOver technology and an FM radio
- 37.5x40.9x8.78mm
- 21.1g

iPod nano 16GB

£163

- Up to 4,000 songs
- Up to 14,000 photos
- Includes Nike+iPod support
- Available in silver, black, blue, green, yellow, pink and red (Apple Store exclusive)
- 1.54-inch diagonal Multi-Touch screen • 240x240 pixel resolution (220 pixels per inch) • Battery lasts up to 24 hours • Includes VoiceOver technology and an FM radio
- 37.5x40.9x8.78mm
- 21.1g

iPod classic

Now Playing
2:20
MENU
iPod
Music
Videos
Photos
Podcasts
Extras
Settings
Shuffle Songs
Now Playing
MENU

Updated September 2009

iPod classic 160GB

£197

- Up to 40,000 songs
- Up to 25,000 photos
- Up to 200 hours of video
- Available in black and silver
- 2.5-inch screen
- 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 36 hours (audio)
- Battery lasts up to 6 hours (video)
- 103.5x61.8x10.5mm
- 140g

iPod touch

Updated September 2010

iPod touch 8GB

£193

- Up to 1,750 songs
- Up to 10,000 photos
- Up to 10 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen, 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n, 802.11n at 2.4GHz only)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) seven hours (video)
- Video recording at 720p HD, up to 30 frames per second
- 960x720 still photos
- 111x58.9x7.2mm • 101g

iPod touch 32GB

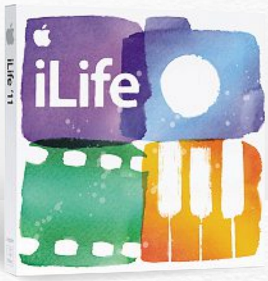
£254

- Up to 7,000 songs
- Up to 25,000 photos
- Up to 40 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen, 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n, 802.11n at 2.4GHz only)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) seven hours (video)
- Video recording at 720p HD, up to 30 frames per second
- 960x720 still photos
- 111x58.9x7.2mm • 101g

iPod touch 64GB

£336

- Up to 14,000 songs
- Up to 50,000 photos
- Up to 80 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen, 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n, 802.11n at 2.4GHz only)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) seven hours (video)
- Video recording at 720p HD, up to 30 frames per second
- 960x720 still photos
- 111x58.9x7.2mm • 101g



Essential techniques every iLife owner should know!

180 pages of expert advice & tutorials

The essential iLife '11 handbook

Make more of the Mac's creative software today!

iPhoto iMovie GarageBand iWeb iDVD

On Sale 31st May

TOP 10 Tap! Apps

The best apps for the iPhone, iPad & iPod touch this month

GARAGEBAND

A brilliantly easy to learn music-making app for the iPad. Great sound, too.
iPad; £2.99

CAPO

Learn those tricky guitar solos by slowing your songs down. Simple and effective.
iPhone/iPod touch/iPad; £11.99

iMOVIE

The latest update brings welcome new features, such as better audio tools.
iPhone/iPod touch/iPad 2; £2.99

INKPAD

A must-have vector drawing app for any creative iPad user.
iPad; £2.99

TOUCH RETOUCH HD

A simple and powerful way to chop unwanted stuff out of your photographs.
iPad; 59p

SYNTHCAM

Simulate a bigger lens aperture when using your phone's camera.
iPhone/iPod touch; 59p

NURSERY RHYMES WITH STORYTIME

A beautifully illustrated storybook for kids.
iPhone/iPod touch/iPad; £1.79

ZAPD

Create a website on your phone in sixty seconds flat. Yes, you really can!
iPhone/iPod touch; £FREE

DSLR CAMERA REMOTE HD

If you're serious about photography, this app's worth its high price.
iPad; £29.99

EVERNOTE

The popular and versatile note-taking app gets an update. Powerful stuff.
iPhone/iPod touch/iPad; £FREE

Looking for more great apps for your iPhone? Try Tap! the iPhone and iPad magazine www.tapmag.co.uk

ON SALE NOW!

KEYBOARDS & MICE

Apple Magic Trackpad

★★★★☆

Price: £60 **Reviewed:** Issue 226
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/ 713555
Key specs: 13.13x13.01x1.83cm; Bluetooth connectivity; powered by 2x AA batteries; requires Mac OS X 10.6.4

⊕ Brings the MacBook's famous gestures to Apple's desktop range
⊖ Snow Leopard only

"Well conceived and beautifully executed, it's well worth a try if you use a Mac Pro, iMac or Mac mini at home or work."

Wacom Bamboo Fun Small ★★★★★

Price: £84 **Reviewed:** Issue 214
Full review: www.techradar.com/637575
Key specs: 1,024 pressure levels; Gestures
⊕ Gesture support, good software bundle
⊖ Expensive

Microsoft Arc Mouse ★★★★★

Price: £29 **Reviewed:** Issue 229
Full review: www.techradar.com/913796
Key specs: Wireless operation; foldable form factor
⊕ Highly portable. Has four customisable buttons
⊖ Might not suit those who like a small mouse

PRINTERS & ALL-IN-ONES

Canon PIXMA MP640

★★★★★

Price: £200 **Reviewed:** Issue 215
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/644919
Key specs: Printer (9,600x2,400dpi, 5-ink printing); supports all major memory card formats; on-body printing

⊕ Phenomenal feature package; great print quality
⊖ Weak instructions might confuse newbies

"The mix of stellar print quality and an excellent feature package make the Canon MP640 a great buy."

Canon PIXMA MG6150 ★★★★★

Price: £150 **Reviewed:** Issue 227
Full review: www.techradar.com/719361
Key specs: Six-tank inkjet; touch-sensitive controls
⊕ Comprehensive connectivity; stellar print quality
⊖ Could be faster

Samsung ML-2855ND ★★★★★

Price: £154 **Reviewed:** Issue 221
Key specs: Mono laser printer
⊕ Incredible value to run and great print quality
⊕ Elegant, well-realised text and decent images
⊕ Helpful screen to guide you through problems

DISPLAYS

Apple Cinema Display

★★★½☆

Price: £918 **Reviewed:** Issue 229
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/912746
Key specs: 27-inch LED screen, 2,560x 1,440, 12ms response time, 3x self-powered USB ports, iSight camera

⊕ Bright and sharp; good speakers; single cable to Mac
⊖ Height not adjustable; very expensive; average colour consistency

"The picture's sharp and the colours are bright and vivid, but just look at that price tag. Quality, but too expensive."

Samsung 2233SW ★★★★½

Price: £169 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/628604
Key specs: Low-cost SyncMaster monitor
⊕ Excellent value for money
⊖ No speakers

Samsung FX2490HD ★★★★☆

Price: £266 **Reviewed:** Issue 230
Full review: www.techradar.com/908753
Key specs: 24-inch LED screen, 1,920x1,280 res
⊕ Great screen, good audio, includes TV tuner
⊖ Lacks adjustability, pricey and lacks HD channels

SPEAKERS/HEADPHONES

Scosche IDR655m

★★★★½

Price: £60 **Reviewed:** Issue 223
Web: www.scosche.com
Full review: MF issue 223 group test
Key specs: Frequency response 15Hz-20KHz; weight 11g; cable length 139cm; six pairs of tips and a carry pouch

⊕ Excellent audio quality; inline controls, with volume adjustment
⊖ Felt like they should fit a little deeper in the ear

"Excellently placed mic and controls, a beautifully lively sound and a comprehensive feature set."

Arcam rCube ★★★★★

Price: £500 **Reviewed:** Issue 231
Full review: www.techradar.com/926264
Key specs: Mains or rechargeable battery-powered
⊕ Stellar sound; robust and stylish; transportable
⊖ Harshly exposes heavily compressed MP3s

Creative ZiiSound D5 ★★★★½

Price: £280 **Reviewed:** Issue 224
Full review: www.techradar.com/702310
Key specs: Bluetooth speaker set for Mac and iPod
⊕ Impressive sound; solid Bluetooth connection
⊖ Not great at shaping the sound

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Samsung WB2000

★★★★½

Price: £266 **Reviewed:** Issue 228
Web: www.samsung.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/905154
Key specs: 10MP resolution; 4.3-21.5mm lens; JPEG, raw and H.264 file formats; SD and SDHC card formats; weighs 153.3g

⊕ Superb image quality; 1080p video; good creative control
⊖ Some handling issues

"A great standalone cam or partner to an SLR, with fine video to boot. Photos and video are pure quality."

Leica V-LUX 20 ★★★★☆

Price: £465 **Reviewed:** Issue 224
Full review: www.techradar.com/702331
Key specs: 12.1MP; Leica DC-VARIO-ELMAR lens
⊕ Powerful 12x zoom option; GPS tagging
⊖ Expensive for a compact

Panasonic Lumix DMC-GH2 ★★★★☆

Price: £750 **Reviewed:** Issue 232
Full review: www.techradar.com/926611
Key specs: 18.32MP; 14-42mm lens; SD/SDHC/SDXC
⊕ Smooth video output; articulated LED screen
⊖ Some small controls; too expensive

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS

Sony HDR-CX115E

★★★★★

Price: £300 **Reviewed:** Issue 233
Web: www.sony.co.uk
Full review: MF Issue 233 group test
Key specs: 1920x1080 resolution; 2.7-inch LCD; covers MPEG4-AVC and H.264 recording formats

⊕ Excellent all-round performance, and a compact, portable form factor
⊖ There are cheaper camcorders around

"The Sony provides you with all you'd want from a camcorder, with excellent build, features and quality."

Canon HV30 ★★★★½

Price: £1,140 **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/468942
Key specs: HDV; DIGIC II processor; MiniDV/SD card
⊕ Superb stills and video; better than HDD
⊖ Cumbersome to use

Samsung VP-HMX 20C ★★★★☆

Price: £375 **Reviewed:** Issue 202
Full review: www.techradar.com/528224
Key specs: 2.7-inch LCD; movie capture at 2.1MP
⊕ Good screen; lightweight; offers full HD
⊖ Really need to shop around for price

ROUTERS/NETWORKING

AVM FRITZ!Box 7390

★★★★★

Price: £250 **Reviewed:** Issue 229
Web: www.fritzbox.eu
Full review: www.techradar.com/912929
Key specs: 802.11n, g, b and a; dual band 2.4GHz and 5GHz; power consumption 6-8 watts; integrated DECT base station

⊕ Packed with features, including dual band wireless 'n'; very fast
⊖ Expensive, especially if you don't want the telephony functions

"Fast and feature-rich, the FRITZ!Box 7390 could transform your home network. Great traffic-shaping features too."

Devolo dLAN Wireless 'n' ★★★★☆

Price: £115 **Reviewed:** Issue 231
Full review: www.techradar.com/926334
Key specs: Three Ethernet ports plus Wi-Fi
⊕ Easy to set up and use; versatile; fast speeds
⊖ A little bulky for some skirting boards

Janus Wi-Fi Adapter ★★★★☆

Price: £55 **Reviewed:** Issue 225
Full review: www.techradar.com/709609
Key specs: Range of up to 1000 metres
⊕ Powerful and solid wireless networking
⊖ Instructions for Mac users not great

STORAGE

Mobile Drive CLS

★★★★½

Price: £varies **Reviewed:** Issue 226
Web: www.freecom.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/713563
Key specs: Dock takes up to three portable drives; drives available in capacities of 250, 320, 500 and 640GB; USB 2.0.

⊕ Convenient; stylish design; flexible; reasonable performance
⊖ Standard drives offer a better price-per-GB ratio

"A neat, inexpensive hard disk docking station that makes us go all nostalgic. Nice rubber finish too."

Buffalo Dualie 500GB ★★★★½

Price: £119 **Reviewed:** Issue 220
Full review: www.techradar.com/678951
Key specs: USB 2.0 and FireWire connectivity
⊕ Attractive, robust, space-saving design
⊖ Expensive; drive slows when iPhone docked

DataTraveler Locker+ 8GB ★★★★½

Price: £20 **Reviewed:** Issue 232
Full review: www.techradar.com/930867
Key specs: 256-bit AES security
⊕ Password-protects your data; good price
⊖ Can't function without its launcher app

TOP 10 Tap! Games

The best games for the iPhone, iPad & iPod touch this month

TINKERBOX HD

Solve fiendishly addictive puzzles and learn a thing or two at the same time.
iPad; £FREE

TINY WINGS

Get a cute little bird airborne, using only your thumb on the screen.
iPhone/iPod touch; 59p

JELLYCAR 3

Guide a car through a series of of obstruction-packed levels. Engaging stuff.
iPhone/iPod touch/iPad; 59p

SHADOW ERA

This brings the concept of a real-life card-trading game beautifully to iOS.
iPhone/iPod touch/iPad; £FREE

STARFRONT: COLLISION

Complex and yet very accessible, the best current iOS strategy game.
iPhone/iPod touch; £1.79

MINOTRON: 2112

A quirky and very old-skool 2D shooter. Simply brilliant, especially on the iPad.
iPhone/iPod touch/iPad; £1.19

SACRED ODYSSEY

Clichéd it may be, but this Zelda-like adventure is hugely enjoyable if a little clunky.
iPad; £3.99

HUNTERS: EPISODE 1

A turn-based strategy game that provides new content every 24 hours.
iPad; £4.99 with IAP

LEAGUE OF EVIL

Destroy the League of Evil by punching them to bits in this 2D platformer.
iPhone/iPod touch; 59p

INFINITY FIELD

A truly first-rate twin-stick shooter for the iPad that betters Geometry Wars.
iPad; £1.19

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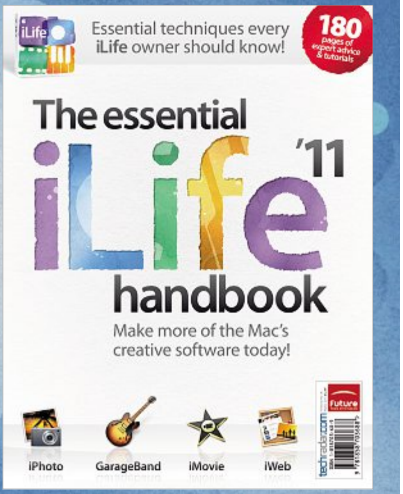
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HOME OFFICE

Scrivener 2.0

★★★★★

Price: £30 **Reviewed:** Issue 229
Web: www.literatureandlatte.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/913378
System reqs: A Mac with either an Intel or an older PPC procesor can be used; minimum version of OS X is 10.4: Tiger

➕ Great new features; improved corkboard; better outlining
➖ Some aspects are quite complex

"Far and away the best application available for long-form writing, on any platform. A superb update."

MS Office for Mac 2011 ★★★★☆

Price: From £76 **Reviewed:** Issue 228
Full review: www.techradar.com/903277
System reqs: OS X 10.5.8 or later; Intel Mac
➕ Cheaper and faster than 2008; new features
➖ No upgrade pricing

FileMaker Pro 11 ★★★★★

Price: £257 **Reviewed:** Issue 221
Full review: www.techradar.com/683719
System reqs: OS X 10.5.7 or later
➕ Easy to use; built-in charts; Quick Find
➖ No image import from Bento

VISUAL TOOLS & LAYOUT

Freeway 5.5 Pro

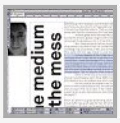
★★★★★

Price: £155 **Reviewed:** Issue 230
Web: www.softpress.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/919171
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.5 or higher; Intel or PowerPC processor; Tiger users can run Version 5.4.3

➕ Powerful layout controls; built-in web image optimising; new features
➖ Weak HTML import; only one undo

"Freeway 5.5 Pro is great for website design work, and doesn't ask for a degree in coding first."

QuarkXPress 9 ★★★★☆



Price: £935 **Reviewed:** Issue 234
Full review: www.techradar.com/943966
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.5 or later; Intel only
➕ Slick, fast and powerful; ShapeMaker is fun
➖ Its feature set is still behind Adobe InDesign

Photoshop Elements 9 ★★★★½

Price: £58 (£65 bundled) **Reviewed:** Issue 227
Full review: www.techradar.com/719934
System reqs: OS X 10.4.11+, Intel Mac, 512MB
➕ New Guided Edit mode; Layer masks; Organizer
➖ Some features not so effective

SYSTEM UTILITIES

Bjango iStat Menus 3

★★★★★

Price: £11 **Reviewed:** Issue 223
Web: www.bjango.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/694688
System reqs: OS X 10.5 or later. The last version to offer compatibility with OS X 10.4: Tiger was iStat Menus 1.3

➕ Updated interface; simpler intstallation; great new features
➖ It's no longer free, though it's certainly worth paying for

"A solid upgrade to what was already a first-rate add-on for any Mac. A great application that continues to improve."

Roxio Toast 11 Titanium ★★★★½

Price: £85 **Reviewed:** Issue 233
Full review: www.techradar.com/936399
System reqs: OS X 10.5 or later, Intel Mac
➕ Great new features, slick new interface
➖ Fickle VIDEO_TS conversion

VueScan 9.0 ★★★★★

Price: From $40 (£12) **Reviewed:** Issue 231
Full review: www.techradar.com/926342
System reqs: OS X 10.3.9 or later
➕ Extends the life of out-of-date scanners
➖ The wizard could do more

MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE

Apple iLife '11

★★★★½

Price: £46 **Reviewed:** Issue 229
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com
System reqs: Intel processor; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.6.3 or later; 5GB HDD space; display, min. 1280x768-pixel resolution.

➕ Great new features for iPhoto, iMovie and GarageBand
➖ iDVD and iWeb not updated; the iLife suite is now Snow Leopard-only

"It's a pity iLife '11 is Intel-only, but as PowerPC Macs were discontinued in 2006, it's probably time to let go."

Apple Logic Studio ★★★★★

Price: £417 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/625541
System reqs: Intel Mac; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.7
➕ Powerful music studio; great tools; good value
➖ Some minor bugs in the initial release

Anime Studio Debut 6 ★★★★½

Price: £32 **Reviewed:** Issue 225
Full review: www.techradar.com/709610
System reqs: 256MB RAM; OS X 10.4 or later
➕ Great new tools, including masking function
➖ It's not the Mac's best-looking app

Mac FORMAT

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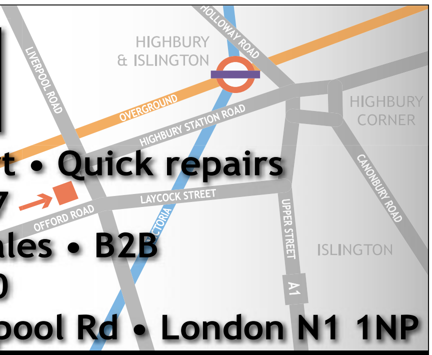

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Mac User Groups

Find fellow Mac enthusiasts near you! Here's a list of the UK & Ireland MUGs

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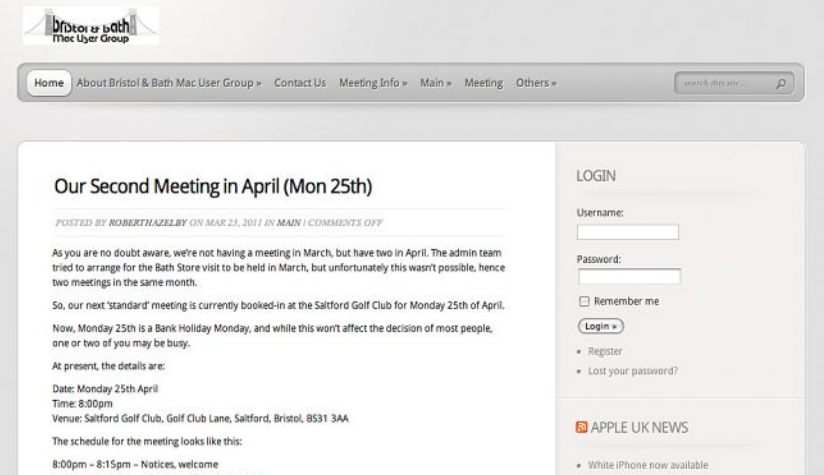

Our Second Meeting in April (Mon 25th)

POSTED BY ROBERTHAZELBY ON MAR 23, 2011 IN MAIN | COMMENTS OFF

As you are no doubt aware, we're not having a meeting in March, but have two in April. The admin team tried to arrange for the Bath Store visit to be held in March, but unfortunately this wasn't possible, hence two meetings in the same month.

So, our next 'standard' meeting is currently booked-in at the Saltford Golf Club for Monday 25th of April.

Now, Monday 25th is a Bank Holiday Monday, and while this won't affect the decision of most people, one or two of you may be busy.

At present, the details are:

Date: Monday 25th April
Time: 8:00pm
Venue: Saltford Golf Club, Golf Club Lane, Saltford, Bristol, BS31 3AA

The schedule for the meeting looks like this:

8:00pm – 8:15pm – Notices, welcome

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- White iPhone now available

The Bristol and Bath Mac User Group (BBMug) holds one meeting a month, usually on the fourth Monday at the Saltford Golf Club, with a meeting once every three months at the Apple Store in Bristol's Cabot Circus. Membership costs £25 for the whole year. The Chairman, Jeremy, does a number of talks on 'Mac tips and tricks' throughout the year, which always prove popular, and other subjects covered recently include *Automator* and *iMovie* basics. You can find out more and get involved at **http://bbmug.co.uk**.

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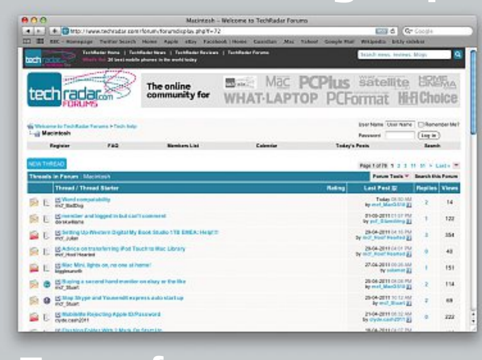

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If you haven't got a local Mac user group then try our forums at **www.macformat.co.uk/forums**. There you'll have the chance to talk about all things Apple and get answers to any questions you may have from a decent bunch of like-minded Apple users.

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If you've got loads of images that all need scaling down to a particular size, *QuickScale* can save you a lot of time. Rather than scaling each picture one by one, you can perform the same operation on a swathe of files, which is great if you want to email or upload your holiday photos. It can also convert between popular formats.

Latest version

The newest version of *QuickScale* is available on the Mac App Store – search for QuickScale to find it.

>>SYSTEM UTILITY

Desktop Cleaner 1.02

Tidy your files away

It's easy to let all sorts of files and folders build up on your Mac's desktop, but this looks cluttered and doesn't do your background image any favours. *Desktop Cleaner* is a simple app that moves the clutter from your desktop to a designated location on your hard drive. And if there are things you want left on your desktop, just tell *Desktop Cleaner* not to touch them.

Other software

Find more programs on the Mac App Store from the same developer – search for 82 inc.

>>FILE MANAGER

ForkLift 1.7.8

Manage your Mac better

ForkLift is a powerful bit of software for working with the files and folders on your Mac. As well as tasks such as batch renaming files, you can sync folders, connect and upload to a variety of servers and devices, delete apps and more.

The app will also split files and folders down so that you can fit the fragments onto limited-sized storage, such as optical discs. This is ideal for making backups.

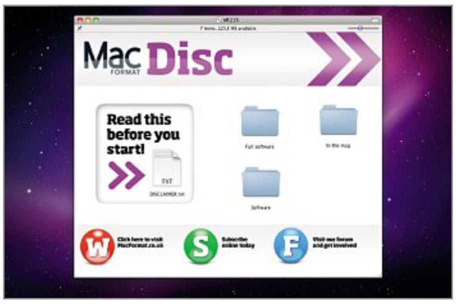
Latest version

ForkLift 2 is available on the Mac App Store. Just search for ForkLift to find it!

>>READER OFFERS

Get a 27% discount off video conversion app VidConvert: **http://bit.ly/vidconv**. Plus, get 40% off icon customisation tool IconBox at **http://bit.ly/maciconbox**.

>>HOW TO / Install the programs on your disc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Disc
Read this before you start!
TXT
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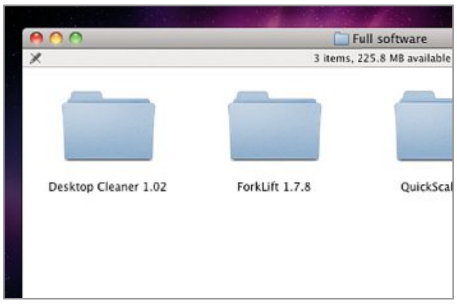
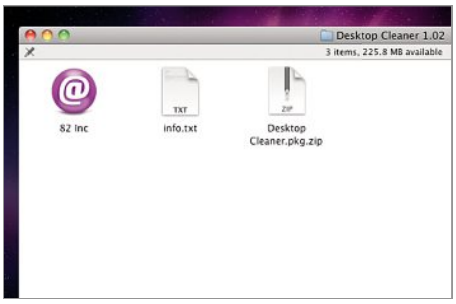
01 Loading the disc

Once you've inserted the disc in your Mac's optical drive and clicked on the disc icon to display its contents, you'll be greeted with this folder. Please make sure you read the disclaimer text file before you progress.


Full software
3 items, 225.8 MB available
Desktop Cleaner 1.02
ForkLift 1.7.8
QuickScal

02 The software

Navigate through the folders as you would those on your hard disk. Using the *Finder*, click on the names that correlate with the magazine sections and you'll be greeted with folders for each of the applications.


Desktop Cleaner 1.02
3 items, 225.8 MB available
82 Inc
TXT
info.txt
ZIP
Desktop Cleaner.pkg.zip

03 Getting the apps

Each software folder will house at least three icons. The first is an info text file where you can read more about the product. Then comes a webloc site link and, finally, the app itself. Drag it to your desktop to open. ●

Mac FORMAT Disc

>> HAVING PROBLEMS?

For further help email **support@futurenet.co.uk** or call our support team on **01225 822743**. If you have comments please email to Simon Holland, New Media Editor, at **simon.holland@futurenet.com**

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FULL SOFTWARE

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ISSUE 235 / Summer 2011

MISSING YOUR DISC?

If your disc is missing, email **support@futurenet.com** or phone 01225 822743

Gesture apps
BetterTouchTool 0.661
Jitouch 2.41
MagicPrefs 2.1.0
MouseWizard 6.0.1
MultiClutch beta5

Essential software
Adium 1.4.1
AppZapper 2.0.1
Burn 2.5.1
Firefox 4.0
Gimp 2.6.11
HandBrake 0.9.5
TextWrangler 3.5.3
The Unarchiver 2.6
Thunderbird 3.1.7
VLC Media Player 1.1.9

Top freeware
Audacity 1.3.13.0
Bean 2.9.5
DiscRotate 2.0
Economix 3.2.3
Fetch Art for iTunes 2.6.0
FileZilla 3.4.0
Hidden Files 3.0.2
Notational Velocity 2.0
PhotoSync 1.0.3
x264Encoder 1.2.22

>> FINDING A SERIAL CODE

With the new interface comes a slight adjustment in your route to full product activation. The majority of this software will still require you to register online for activation. But now, you'll need to double-click the webloc '@' icon.

Future Technology coverdisc

This disc has been thoroughly scanned and tested at all stages of production, but - as with any new software - we still recommend that you run a virus checker before use. We also recommend that you have an up-to-date backup of your hard disk(s) before using this disc.

Future Publishing cannot accept responsibility for any disruption, damage and/or loss of data to your data or computer system that may occur while using this disc, or the programs and data on it. We advise that you consult your network administrator before installing software on a networked Mac.

Coverdisc problems

If you are having difficulties using the *MacFormat* disc interface or its content, please visit our reader support website at www.futurenet.co.uk/support. On this regularly updated website, you'll find solutions to numerous commonly reported problems. If, after reading these, you are still experiencing difficulties, then please email our reader support team (support@futurenet.co.uk) or phone 01225 442244 and ask for coverdisc support.

Please note that we can only provide technical support for the installation of software. Unfortunately, we cannot give in-depth help on the applications, or on your hardware or operating system. For software support-related issues, please contact the relevant product's developers. We regret that are unable to provide serial numbers over the phone.

Please also note that Future Publishing can only provide technical support for this disc for a period of six months after this magazine's on-sale date.

Interface

- Interface requires OS X.
- Some programs may require free registration over the internet or phone.
- Some software may not be available in all territories.
- Where relevant, program values quoted are prices when sold with original packaging and manuals.

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